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Maintenance work will also create hundreds of posts elsewhere

£410m deal secures 200 jobs at air base

By George Welch

HUNDREDS of jobs at RAF Brize Norton have been secured after the award of a £410m Government contract for maintenance of new aircraft.

The deal agreed with the Ministry of Defence will see the RAF's 14-strong Airbus Atlas A400M fleet increased to 22 transporters by 2019.

The support contract with Airbus Defence and Space will pay for maintenance, repairs and upgrades of the aircraft until 2026.

The MoD, which described the fleet as "a key part" of the RAF airlift capability, said the deal would secure the future of at least 400 jobs - including 200 UK posts with Airbus at the West Oxfordshire air base and the wider Atlas programme creating an additional 200 nationwide.

While Brize Norton will oversee maintenance, repairs and upgrades on the aircraft, jobs will be created in Gloucestershire, Somerset, Sussex and Bristol to help with the supply chain operation.

Witney MP Robert Courts and Liam Walker, Conservative candidate for the Minster and Hanborough Division in Oxfordshire County Council's May elections, described the contract as "wonderful" and "great" respectively.

The A400M is the latest addition to the RAF's armoury and can carry up to 37 tonnes of payload over a range of 2,000 nautical miles.

It can carry armoured vehicles, allowing a deploying force to arrive ready to fight. For humanitarian roles, it can deploy mobile cranes, excavators and dumper trucks for disaster relief operations such as clearing earthquake sites.

Air Marshal Julian Young, chief of materiel (air) at the MoD's Defence Equipment and Support organisation, said the A400M Atlas "will form the backbone of the Royal Air Force's Strategic and Tactical Air Transport capability over the next decade and beyond".

He added: "This key contract will deliver maintenance for our A400M Atlas fleet, enabling this class-leading aircraft to support UK military operations around the globe."

Chief executive officer for the UK's Defence Equipment and Sup-

• Continues on page 3

• An Atlas A400M aircraft (Picture: courtesy of MOD)

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£50m confirmed for A34 upgrades to better safety

By Adam Flinn

• The aftermath of the crash on A34 in August in which four people were killed (Picture by Jay Wallis)

UP to £50million of funding to make improvements to the A34 has been confirmed by the chancellor of the exchequer Philip Hammond, it was revealed last week.

In a letter sent to Newbury MP Richard Benyon and Oxfordshire MPs Ed Vaizey and Nicola Blackwood, Mr Hammond outlined the funds as part of the Government's road investment strategy 2015-2020.

Technology enhancements including the introduction of vehicle detection loops which monitor vehicles passing certain points, CCTV cameras and driver information systems on the A34 between the M4 and the M40 have been allocated up to £25million.

Another £25million has been put aside to make improvements to the Peartree and Botley interchanges in Oxford.

The money was first announced for the road in 2014, but Mr Benyon has said this has now been brought forward, with the full funding made available.

He said: "We're all delighted, this is going to make a big difference to safety on the road.

"The funding was costed as far back [as 2014] and there was a programme to have it delivered by 2020, but my understanding is that has been brought forward, so it's not fair to say it's a re-announcement of the money.

"The Department for Transport and Highways England are working very hard to try and get a programme for delivery on this, and that is the next phase of our activities, to make sure it all happens as quickly and as urgently as possible.

"Some of it is very easy to do, and my feeling is some elements of this money could be spent in the next year or 18 months."

In his letter, Mr Hammond wrote that Highways England is currently analysing both schemes ahead of implementation, although no dates were given for when work could start.

His letter continued: "I recognise the importance of maintaining momentum on these projects and I have asked my officials to engage with the Department for Transport to ensure there are no overdue delays in the process."

MP for Abingdon and Oxford West Nicola Blackwood said: "Ensuring existing commitments are honoured and fighting for Oxford's fair share of investment have been key to my campaign for improvements to the A34.

"Technology can make all the difference in giving drivers early warning of congestion and addressing these pinch point junctions is essential, now we must take a joined up approach to ensure improvements are delivered in a reasonable time frame".

The push for safety improvements came after 45-year-old Tracy Houghton, her two sons Ethan, 13, and Josh, 11, and her partner's daughter Aimee Goldsmith, 11, died in an eight-vehicle crash on the A34 near the East Ilsley junction on August 10.

The A34 Action Group was set up in the aftermath of the crash, which demanded changes be made to the road in order to improve safety.

A debate in parliament in October led to roads minister John Hayes promising an immediate safety study into the road, as well as considering the long-term option of making the road a motorway.

Mr Benyon added: "We are going to continue to put pressure on the Government to make sure this is happening.

"We're not going to take our foot off the pedal just because of this announcement, this is an absolute priority."

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News Bites

Rape arrest

OXFORD: A man has been arrested on suspicion of rape following an incident at Oxford Brookes University's Botley campus on Tuesday night.

A Thames Valley Police spokesperson confirmed the force is investigating a rape that happened at around 8.10pm on Tuesday.

One man has been arrested on suspicion of rape and remains in custody as we went to press yesterday.

About a dozen police cars were seen on Harcourt Hill, just off the A34 yesterday morning and a forensic tent was put up in Raleigh Park.

Thousands stolen

OXFORD: Thousands of pounds worth of money, accessories and electrical items were stolen in a series of burglaries in Oxford last month.

Police are appealing for information after four burglaries in the city on December 29.

The first burglary happened between 9.30am and 11.30am at a house in Woodstock Road where burglars smashed their way into the home using a brick before carrying out a messy search and stealing a large amount of property, including over £10,000-worth of jewellery, shoes and handbags, police said.

And at around 5.30pm offenders smashed in the backdoor of another Woodstock Road home before snatching a large amount of US Dollars.

Between 2pm and 7.30pm offenders gained entry to a house in Banbury Road and stole electrical items, including a Samsung laptop and an iPod Nano.

And between 3.30pm and 6.30pm, thieves gained entry to a house in Davenant Road and stole high value electrical items including an Xbox, PS4 and Apple TV internet box.

Contact police on 101.

Theft of plates

CHIPPING NORTON: Number plate theft is "still a problem" across the county and, in particular, Chipping Norton, according to police.

Thames Valley Police is urging people wanting tamper-proof screws to get in touch with them at chippingnortonnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

The force said to email your details and police will deliver the screws as soon as possible.

Views sought on bid to raise council tax by an average of £5

WEST Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) intends to raise council tax by an average of £5 per household ahead of another year of financial pressures.

The local authority is preparing its budget for 2017-18 and is consulting on the proposals.

The council said it was "faced by a number of significant financial pressures over the forthcoming year", including a reduction of £750,000 in Government funding and increasing waste and recycling costs of £800,000.

Following five years of council tax freezes, WODC increased its charges for the first time last year to deal with swingeing funding cuts.

It said it now needed to make further difficult choices, including raising council tax and other charges and making cuts to services in the year ahead.

• *Toby Morris, cabinet member for resources at WODC*

Cllr Toby Morris, cabinet member for resources, said the council had to review its spending to counteract the funding cuts. He said: "We are proposing an average council tax increase of £5 for residents.

"This will help protect front-line council services, allow free car parking to continue and provide ongoing grant support for valued services provided by the voluntary sector."

The council said it was intending to improve its efficiency by working even closer with existing partners such as the Cotswold, Cheltenham and Forest of Dean councils.

Cllr Morris added: "This joint working is proving extremely beneficial, currently delivering £1.5m of savings to West Oxfordshire taxpayers, and we know this could be increased further still.

"However, it's important that local residents have a voice and I urge them to have their say on our budget proposals."

Visit westoxon.gov.uk/budget to complete the consultation survey and have your say.

• *Cllr Suzanne Bartington, Liam Walker, Witney MP Robert Courts and Cllr Tom Simcox all joined the ckean-up effort*

Village's road signs given a spruce-up

WEST Oxfordshire residents took to the streets of Minster Lovell with their local Witney MP to give road signs a much-needed clean-up.

Liam Walker, a Conservative candidate for Oxfordshire County Council's Hanborough and Minster Lovell division, said he noticed the village's signs were in a poor condition.

After the clean-up last month, the Conservative activist said: "I noticed a few months ago that these signs were in a really poor state and some were barely visible.

"I decided to get a small team together including our new MP and clean the signs, which will hopefully help make the roads in the village safer."

He added: "It's important to care about where we live and this is something we will continue to do. There's no point having road signs if no-one is able to read them."

MP Robert Courts, who joined the group, said: "Projects like this make a real practical difference to our communities; I support them wholeheartedly and am glad to take part. I thank Liam Walker and the team for organising this local activity and look forward to more."

News Bites

Celebrities visit

NORTH LEIGH: A charity event celebrating popular British television from the last 50 years is heading to West Oxfordshire later this month.

Rarely-seen classic TV programmes will be presented on a big screen at Eynsham Hall over the weekend of January 21 and 22.

A variety of TV stars will be present, including Hugh Fraser and Pauline Moran (from the Poirot TV series), Derek Fowlds (Heartbeart), Louise Jameson and Lalla Ward (Doctor Who) and Patricia Brake (Porridge).

There are evening only tickets from £10, and weekend tickets, including autographs, from £79.

Funds raised will go to the veterinary charity PDSA.

For more information, visit tinyurl.com/zlv3kll.

Museum attracts

LONG HANBOROUGH: More than 350 visitors from across England travelled to Long Hanborough on New Year's Day to catch a fleet of historic buses on display at Oxford Bus Museum.

Two recent additions to the fleet were on show.

The museum contains 30 vintages buses and coaches, the earliest dating from 1913, a collection of Morris cars dating from 1925 and a collection of 45 vintage bicycles.

The museum is located at the rail station at Long Hanborough, and is open on Wednesdays and Sundays from 10.30am until 4.30pm.

New £60m-plus hangar expected to be completed soon

• *From front page*

port organisation, Tony Douglas, said: "The UK's future armed forces will be prepared to respond quickly to global developments and the delivery of next-generation aircraft such as Atlas is vital to the fulfilment of this vision."

The new contract comes after the delivery of important training systems to the Brize Norton base, including two cockpit simulators and a cargo hold trainer.

The new training equipment at RAF Brize Norton has a combined value of £141m and is supported through a pre-existing service support contract worth £226m.

The second of two flight simulators and a cargo hold trainer were delivered earlier in 2016 and the facilities will provide training activities for up to 60 flight crews and 60 maintenance personnel a year.

Elsewhere on site, a new, innovative hangar facility worth about £62m is on schedule to be fully fitted out by early this year.

The huge building will be capable of housing three Atlas aircraft during maintenance work.

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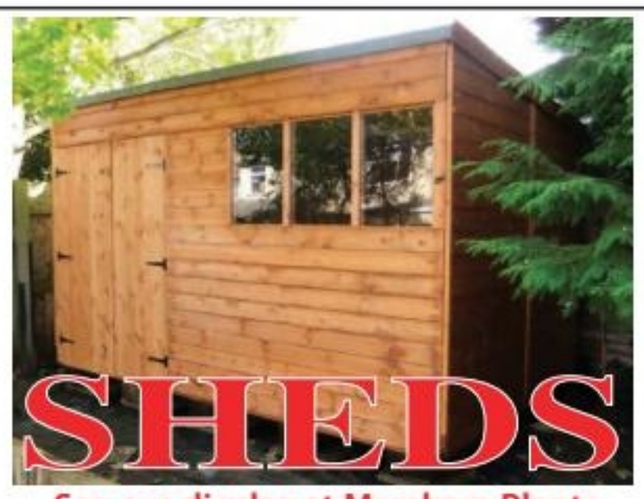

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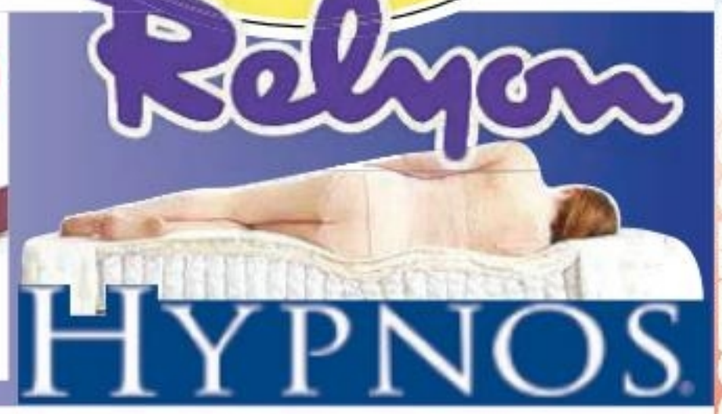

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Tribute paid to soldier as county holds repatriation

By Eva Astreinidou

THE repatriation of 22-year-old soldier Scott Hetherington who died in Iraq was due to take place today in Oxfordshire.

Lance Corporal Hetherington, of 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, died on Monday, January 2, following an incident at Camp Taji, north of Baghdad.

The soldier was a member of Blenheim Company and a vehicle commander in the Force Protection Platoon.

The Ministry of Defence confirmed his death on Tuesday, January 3.

He leaves a girlfriend and a baby daughter.

Lieutenant Colonel Rob Singleton, Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, said: "Lance Corporal Scott Hetherington was a superb soldier and a first class leader. Utterly professional and talented, he was full of character, fun and his enthusiasm was infectious.

"The battalion has lost a huge talent and a real character. He will be missed dearly and we will never forget him.

"Our hearts go out to his parents, his siblings, his girlfriend and his young daughter. They are in all of our thoughts."

Lance Corporal Lynch, Force Protection Platoon, Blenheim Company, 2nd Battalion, The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment, said: "Snowball was a top bloke. You could always count on him to have a laugh, and he always had an answer for everything.

"He was such a big character. He will be greatly missed by the whole battalion."

An investigation into the circumstances of the death is under way.

The repatriation will see a cortege travel from RAF Brize Norton to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford where a post-mortem examination will take place.

Oxfordshire County Council said the cortege was expected to pass the memorial garden between 3.30pm and 4pm and reach the hospital between 4.30pm and 5pm.

According to figures published in 2016, the UK lost 179 servicemen and women during the campaign that followed the invasion of Iraq on March 20, 2003.

The British military mission came to an end in April 2009.

Camp Taji serves as a training site for the Iraqi Army, some of whom are trained to fight against the so-called Islamic State.

•Scott Hetherington died in Iraq (Picture courtesy of MOD)

• Flowers outside George Michael's home in Goring (Picture by Liz Taylor)

Police refute claims over George Michael's death

POLICE have denied launching a major crime investigation into the death of music superstar George Michael.

National newspapers reported on Friday that Thames Valley Police had upgraded its inquiry into the former Wham! singer's death at his Goring home.

Both The Sun and Daily Mirror ran front pages on 53-year-old Mr Michael's death, reporting that detectives from the force's Major Crime Unit were now investigating and feared the singer may have died of a drugs overdose.

But also on Friday, a police spokesperson said: "Contrary to media reports today this is not a Thames Valley Police major crime investigation.

"As part of Thames Valley Police's investigation on behalf of Oxfordshire coroner into this unexplained but non-suspicious death officers are establishing facts which include taking statements.

"This is standard practice in cases such as this to allow the coroner to determine the circumstances of the death."

The Mirror also reported that police had quizzed Mr Michael's boyfriend Fadi Fawaz for a second time.

The singer was found dead at his riverside home on the Thames on Christmas Day.

An inquest into his death is expected to be opened at Oxford Coroner's Court at County Hall in due course.

News Bites

Hawking speaks

OXFORD: Professor Stephen Hawking will be hosting the inaugural Roger Penrose Lecture at the Oxford Mathematical Institute.

He will deliver a talk on black holes at the Oxford University Mathematics Institute on Wednesday, January 18, at 5pm. The free lecture is part of the Oxford Mathematics Public Lectures, open to students and the general public.

Prof Hawking is director of research at the department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics and founder of the Centre for Theoretical Cosmology at Cambridge.

Sir Roger Penrose is renowned for his contributions to mathematical physics, specifically the areas of general relativity and cosmology.

Registration is already open. To book, visit http://tinyurl.com/z7d3veh

New contractor

DIDCOT: A new contractor should be in place by the end of the month to clear up debris at Didcot Power Station.

The bolier house was scheduled for demolition when it collapsed in February last year killing four men.

This material has been cleared but other debris from the main building remains to be cleared.

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May unveils plan to boost care for mental health

By Eva Astreinidou

PRIME Minister Theresa May set out a plan to address 'everyday injustices' in mental healthcare across schools, the workplace and communities in a speech at the Charity Commission on Monday.

Mrs May said: "I want us to employ the power of Government as a force for good to transform the way we deal with mental health problems right across society.

"If you suffer from mental health, there's not enough help to hand."

In an article for the Huffington Post on January 7, she said: "While this Government legislated for 'parity of esteem' in healthcare so that whatever your illness, physical or mental you are treated the same, very often the treatment for those with mental illnesses is inadequate."

Some of the measures announced include an emphasis on community care such as crisis cafes and local clinics, which would be allocated an extra £15m.

The PM announced there would also be a focus on digitally-assisted therapy in mental healthcare, which will require a reallocation of £67.7m.

This will mostly be from the existing NHS digitisation fund, and will help build on online services, such as allowing symptom checks before getting a face-to-face appointment.

Oxfordshire Mind welcomed the announcement and its chief executive Paul Farmer, together with Lord Dennis Stevenson, who has suffered from clinical depression in the past, will be leading a review on improving support in the workplace.

Research by the charity found that work was the biggest cause of stress in people's lives, with one in three workers describing it as very, or quite, stressful.

Dan Knowles, CEO of Oxfordshire Mind, said: "Although stigma in mental health has reduced substantially, we all need to work together to ensure it is eradicated.

"Much good work goes on everyday, however the need for improved health services in Oxfordshire remains a significant challenge."

He said the emphasis on support for schools and mental health first aid training, as well as a new partnership-based approach to health support in the workplace, were welcome changes.

He said: "Better mental health for employees increases productivity and reduces sickness.

"We look forward to playing our part in improving mental health for both employees and employers in Oxfordshire."

Mr Farmer chaired the implementation plan of the independent Mental Health Taskforce in 2016.

It brought together health and care leaders, people who use services, and experts in the field to create a five-year forward view for mental health, a strategic plan on how to tackle mental health locally and nationally.

Oxfordshire County Council Labour councillor Jamila Azad said: "These measures are important and valuable for mental health.

"I am quite pleased because we have put it to the county council that more funding needs to be put forward and it seems that that has finally been heard.

"We were pushing the OCC to do something."

In 2016, the annual health survey for England found that one in four adults has been diagnosed with a mental illness at some stage during their lifetime.

• Theresa May on a visit to Wheatley Park School in July - she was a pupil there in the 1970s

Police call for help to catch flasher

POLICE are appealing for information after a man indecently exposed himself to women on three occasions in Oxford.

They believe the three incidents, which all happened in Banbury Road, are linked.

The first at about 9pm on December 13 saw a man expose himself to a 23-year-old woman near the junction with Canterbury Road.

Just over a week later, at about 9.15pm on December 21, a man revealed himself to a woman, 26, close to the North Parade shops.

Finally, at about 10pm on January 2, a man exposed himself to a 23-year-old woman near the junction with Marston Ferry Road.

The offender was white with dark greying hair and wearing a beanie hat and a dark waist-length jacket.

Det Sgt Ian D'Angeli said: "I would like to reassure members of the community that we are conducting a full investigation into these incidents and our neighbourhood officers are doing regular patrols of the area."

Call 101 if you can help.

News Bites

School reminder

OXON: Families with children due to start primary school are being reminded of the applications deadline.

Parents or carers of children born between September 1, 2012, and August 31, 2013, should visit the admissions pages on Oxfordshire County Council's website and apply by January 15.

Applications need to be made for children attending an infant school born between September 1, 2009, and August 31, 2010.

Nominate now

OXON: The 12th annual Sue Ryder Southern Women of Achievement Awards is open for nominations.

The awards celebrate women from across Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire who stand out as role models.

Nominations for the awards close on January 27.

The awards ceremony will be held on March 10 at Trunkwell House in Reading.

Visit www.sueryder.org/swoa for more information.

Awards scheme

W OXON: Sports enthusiasts in West Oxfordshire are being urged to nominate clubs, coaches and unsung heroes for the 2017 West Oxfordshire Sports Awards.

Run by West Oxfordshire District Council, the awards are designed to recognise the contribution of individuals and achievement of clubs in west Oxfordshire.

The deadline is February 20.

For information, visit westoxon.gov.uk/leisure or www.gllsportfoundation.org/application-form.

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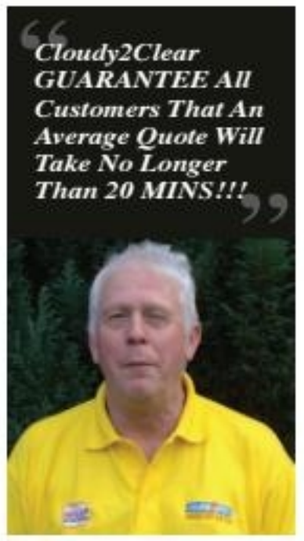

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Olympic gold medallist calls for businesses to enter competition

By George Welch

AN Olympic gold medallist is urging businesses in south Oxfordshire to take part in a bi-annual competition to win a prize package worth more than £10,000.

Olympic rowing gold medallist Tim Foster has joined organisers of the Southern Oxfordshire New Business Competition 2017 (SONBC) to encourage business owners who are in their first two years of trading to compete for free advice and services.

The winner of the competition organised by commercial property landlords and business mentors Jennings, will receive a prize package worth over £10,000.

The award will be presented by Mr Foster, who won gold for TeamGB in the coxless four at the Sydney games in 2000, and his wife Joy.

And the prize package includes: A free Jennings office or workshop for a year at Monument Park in Chalgrove (or virtual office if better suited to the winner) and mentoring, website, brand and marketing consultancy, IT consultancy, social media mentoring and guidance from an accountancy firm.

SONBC first launched in 2007 and takes place every two years. Previous winners and runners up have included swimming teachers, a recycling firm and coffee shop owners.

Commenting on SONBC, Mr Foster, said: "I strongly urge all new business owners to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to receive advice and services from experts in their field."

To enter, southern Oxfordshire business owners in their first two years of business as of December 31 2016 should describe in 100 words or less what they have learnt and achieved since starting-up their business.

Download an application form from sonbc.co.uk and submit it by February 28.

All shortlisted applicants will be interviewed and will discover if they have made the final cut by March 10. Winners will be invited to a presentation ceremony attended by Mr and Mrs Foster on April 7.

• Tim Foster celebrating Gold at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 with teammates from left, Steve Redgrave, Tim Foster, James Cracknell and Matthew Pinsent Businesses from south Oxfordshire are invited to enter.

Strike ballot called in row over pensions

UNION leaders representing thousands of nuclear workers – including those at Harwell – have called a strike ballot in a row over pensions.

GMB, Prospect, Unite and ASLEF/TSSA unions representing workers in the nuclear sector all met in London on Monday to discuss pensions amid claims 16,000 workers at 19 sites face cuts under plans by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) to make savings of £660 million.

After meeting at GMB Offices in Euston, senior union representatives decided they had no option but to call a ballot due to 'broken promises'.

After the meeting, Justin Bowden, GMB national officer for the nuclear sector, said: "Nuclear workers have played their part in keeping the country's lights on for decades.

"Senior representatives were unanimous that if this government is determined to break its promises and is not prepared to negotiate, there is no alternative but to ballot members to take strike action.

"GMB remains committed to resolving these issues amicably and available for meaningful talks."

The first strike day is expected in February or March, GMT said.

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First robot-assisted eye surgery a success

By Eva Astreinidou

THE University of Oxford's ophthalmology unit and Preceyes, a team for sophisticated robot assistance, successfully performed their first eye injection procedure on December 27.

Surgeons at Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital used the Preceyes robot for its first operation to treat a haemorrhage with an injection inserted through the patients' eye.

The surgical robot aims to eliminate unwanted shakes and tremors in the surgeon's hand so that tiny surgical manipulations in the eye can be carried out safely.

Robert Maclaren, professor of ophthalmology, led the operation.

He said: "The operation was performed successfully without any complications.

"It is still early days, but we hope this milestone brings us closer to our eventual goal of using robotic surgery to deliver gene therapy and stem cell treatments for currently incurable retinal diseases."

Nuffield Medical Fellow Dr Thomas Edwards assisted in the operation.

• *The robot being used in September's operation*

Prof Marc de Smet, MD, chief medical officer of Preceyes, said: "This new milestone is an important next step in a process of breakthrough innovation for Preceyes.

"The current surgery confirms both precision and stability of our platform for a prolonged deliberate injection under local anesthesia in humans. This demonstrates that our technology enables us to perform these high-precision drug delivery treatments in the eye."

In September 2016 surgeons made history by using the remote-controlled robot for its first ever procedure performed on a patient's right eye.

Air Ambulance presented with cheque for £1,000

THAMES Valley Air Ambulance has presented the Heythrop Hunt Club with a cheque for £1,000 during a traditional meet at The Fox, Chipping Norton.

Around 2,000 supporters gathered in Chipping Norton to meet the hounds on Boxing Day.

Simon Lawrence, senior joint-master of the Heythrop Hunt, said: "The Heythrop Hunt is delighted to be able to give this cheque to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance, which is a service very highly valued by everyone in the rural community.

"The air ambulance is entirely funded by donations and it is great to be able to play a part in that."

Mr Lawrence added: "Year after year more and more people come to our Boxing Day meet to see the Heythrop, who have been part of the local community in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire since 1835.

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to welcome so many newcomers, many of whom become fascinated by watching the hounds at work."

• *Heythrop Hunt Club (Pictures: Ian Tolputt Photography)*

Oxfordshire's Health and Care Services NHS

The Big Consultation – *We need to know your views*

The NHS in Oxfordshire is launching **'The Big Health and Care Consultation'** to ask you what you think about possible changes to some healthcare services in the county.

The proposals affect acute hospital services (acute hospitals provide a wide range of specialist care and treatment including surgery, medical care, emergency care and tests), specifically:

- changing the way we use our hospital beds and bringing care closer to home in Oxfordshire
- planned care at the Horton General in Banbury which includes tests and treatment planned in advance and not urgent or emergency care
- acute stroke services in Oxfordshire
- critical care at the Horton General which helps people with life-threatening or very serious injuries and illnesses
- maternity services including obstetrics, Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) and emergency gynaecology surgery In North Oxfordshire.

We will be holding consultation events across the county where you will be able to talk to clinicians and senior NHS leaders and share your views about these proposals. Places will be limited according to venue size, so please book to attend.

The events will be held on the following dates:

Thursday 26 January, 7pm – 9pm in Banbury
Thursday 2 February, 2pm – 4pm in Chipping Norton
Tuesday 7 February, 3pm – 5pm in Wantage
Thursday 9 February, 7pm – 9pm in Oxford
Monday 13 February, 10am – 12pm in Didcot
Thursday 16 February, 6pm – 8pm in Witney
Tuesday 21 February, 3pm – 5pm in Bicester
Monday 27 February, 10.30am – 12.30pm in Brackley
Thursday 2 March, 8pm – 10pm in Henley
Monday 6 March, 8pm – 10pm in Wallingford
Thursday 16 March, 7pm – 9pm in Banbury
Thursday 23 March, 6.30pm – 8.30pm in Abingdon

The consultation will launch on **Monday 16 January 2017**. You will be able to read more about the proposals on our website

www.oxonhealthcaretransformation.nhs.uk

or pick up more information at your GP practice.

If you would like to:

- attend any of the events and book your place to receive the full details, including venues
- receive a hard copy of the consultation document or survey
- or have any queries

Please call 01865 334638 or email: *cscsu.talkinghealth@nhs.net*

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For more information and to register, visit BicesterVillage.com/jobfair

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Harwell celebrates 70 years

• *Margaret Thatcher visited Harwell in 1973*
Pictures: Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

By Eva Astreinidou

THE Harwell nuclear site is celebrating its 70th year serving as an innovative civil nuclear power establishment.

In 1946, as Britain was recovering from the end of the Second World War, scientists at Harwell were developing the first nuclear reactor in Western Europe.

With 14 experimental reactors on site, Harwell became the UK's centre for research and development into civil nuclear power.

During the past 70 years, visitors have included Sir Winston Churchill, Margaret Thatcher and Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

By the late 1980s the requirements for nuclear research and development changed drastically, and the site adapted to non-nuclear and commercial research.

Today the Harwell Site is focused on decommissioning its three remaining nuclear reactors.

Gary Reid, Harwell integration manager, said: "Having been at Harwell for a number of years it is amazing to see the significant changes over the decades.

"What hasn't changed is the unrelenting focus on world-class science and innovation; this focus now being on the safe decommissioning of the site and restoration of the land."

The site, which is owned and maintained by contractor Magnox, will be undergoing more development in the coming years.

David Batters, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's chief finance officer, said: "We welcome the significant progress that Magnox Ltd is making in safely decommissioning Harwell site, with over 100 buildings and facilities now removed.

"We are working closely with Magnox Ltd on their plans to ensure that in less than 50 years' time the entire Harwell Site will be delicensed, with all buildings and facilities decontaminated and demolished."

In recent years the Diamond Light Source project and distinctive building have become a feature of Harwell.

Work at the facility started in 2003 and is scheduled to be completed in 2018.

• *The Queen visited the site in 1957 and just three years earlier Winston Churchill had toured the facility*

• *The Diamond Light Source project at Harwell*

> *What hasn't changed at Harwell is the unrelenting focus on world-class science and innovation*
> *Gary Reid, Integration manager*

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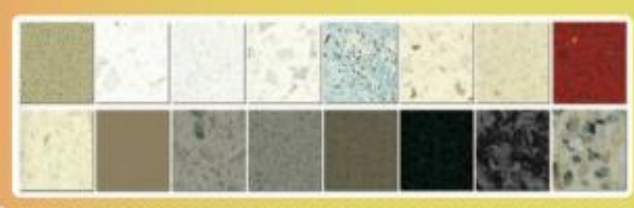

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Multi-million pavilion set for finish date in summer

By Samantha McGregor

WORK on a multi-million pound sports pavilion in Bicester is well under way and on target to open this year.

The building will be used by sportsmen and women using pitches at Whitelands Farm Sports Village, on the Kingsmere estate, where a wheelchair-friendly track for cycling and running, and outdoor fitness equipment, are already available to the public.

The pavilion will include changing facilities, a kiosk, a licensed bar, a kitchen and a function room, as well as 125 parking spaces, ten of which will be for disabled drivers.

Cherwell District Council appointed contractors J Tomlinson Ltd to undertake the £3.2m design-and-build project, which is scheduled for completion in summer 2017.

Contractors started work at the site in November.

Cllr George Reynolds, Cherwell's deputy leader, said: "The vision behind this pavilion is to create an inspiring and modern environment to complement the exciting new tracks and pitches at the sports village.

"It will be a flexible facility; as well as the traditional sports applications, people will be able to socialise over a drink and attend events in the function room.

"We are delighted with the progress so far and look forward to the project's completion in summer."

The sports village will occupy a site of over 17 hectares, provided by Kingsmere developers Countryside.

The sports complex will ultimately include rugby pitches, junior football pitches, a cricket pitch, tennis courts and a floodlit Astroturf pitch.

In addition to the cycling and jogging track, the grass sports pitches are being prepared for use in the 2017 to 2018 season.

Andrew Carrington, director, Countryside Properties (Bicester) Ltd, said: "The new Sports Village at Kingsmere, including the pavilion, is a significant sports facility that will benefit both current and future Kingsmere residents and the wider community in Bicester.

"Already, three full-size rugby pitches, three junior football pitches and a cricket pitch have been constructed, ready for use in the spring.

Martin Gallagher, managing director (construction) for J Tomlinson, said: "The sports pavilion at Kingsmere will be a key building for the local community, providing a purpose-built sports pavilion with changing facilities, function suite and bar facilities, and as such is due to provide an important hub for residents."

• *The new sports village is on target to open next summer, with, inset, Cllr George Reynolds*

News Bites

Charity events

THAME: The film Bridget Jones's Baby will be screened by Thame Cinema on Friday, February 3, in aid of town mayor Linda Emery's charities.

Tickets cost £10, including a raffle, can be bought online from the cinema's website or on the door. The screening is at Thame Players Theatre at 8pm.

On Friday, April 7, the Mayor's Charity Golf Day will be held at The Oxfordshire Golf Club.

The mayor's charities are the Red Kite Children's Centre and Thame Youth Projects.

Woman fears man tried to take her baby away

POLICE are on the hunt for a man who complimented a woman's baby and then took hold of her pram.

The incident in Banbury happened between 6.30pm and 7pm on Tuesday when the woman was pushing her baby in a pram near Tesco Express in Middleton Road when a man approached her.

He complimented her on her baby before putting his hand on her pram.

The woman pushed him away and she went inside the Tesco store where she called police.

She feared the man, described as Asian, aged between 25 and 30 years old, 5ft 9ins tall, was trying to steal the baby, police said.

The man is of slim build and was wearing a red woollen hat and a black coat.

Investigating officer Det Insp Steve Raffield, from Banbury Force CID, said: "This incident was concerning for the woman as she believed the man may have been trying to take the baby away. He did not touch the child during the incident.

"I am keeping an open mind about what happened.

"This may have been a misunderstanding or could have been a deliberate attempt to take the baby.

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Politicians given a scolding by Mary Poppins

Greenpeace calls on UK to clean up air pollution with a little help from nanny

• *Mary Poppins floats along St Aldate's, Oxford, as Greenpeace urges the government to take action on diesel vehicle emissions*

By George Welch

A CUT-OUT of childhood icon Mary Poppins was seen in Oxford last week as a national environmental campaign group rallied against air pollution levels across the country.

On Friday, as the UK broke 2017's annual air pollution limits only five days into the year, childhood champion Mary Poppins was spotted floating along St Aldate's in Oxford in a pollution mask.

The cardboard cut-out was part of Greenpeace's campaign calling on politicians to clean up the UK's air to protect the lungs of children.

The campaign group is urging Government to end the sale of new diesel cars, most of which, they claim, pump out between two to 15 times the legal limits, and push manufacturers to rapidly shift to hybrid and electric vehicles.

Under EU rules, any single location in the UK is only allowed to breach hourly limits of 200 micrograms of NO2 per cubic metre of air 18 times in a year.

But late on Thursday evening last week, Brixton Road in London broke that limit for the 19th time.

That breach means the UK has already violated 2017's annual air pollution limits five days into the year – last year it took three.

Julia Spragg, an Oxfordshire Greenpeace activist, said: "It's shocking that it's taken only five days to break the UK's annual limit of air pollution.

"Despite growing concerns about the health impacts of diesel fumes, the government has done almost nothing to tackle car companies since they were caught cheating emissions tests.

"We urgently need to stop the sale of new diesel models until emission testing is truly fit for purpose.

"Better still, we need car companies to phase out diesel completely."

The group's #cleanairnow campaign comes as more health professionals have, over the last few months, spoken out about the impact of air pollution on human health, especially children's.

Research shows that air pollution can cause detrimental impacts, including asthma and can stunt children's lung growth permanently by up to 10 per cent.

Air pollution is also linked to strokes, heart disease and diabetes in older people.

In November 2016, the High Court ruled for the second time in 18 months that the Government is not doing enough to combat the air pollution crisis.

New plan to help prevent diabetes

PEOPLE at risk of Type 2 diabetes will be offered education and lifestyle coaching after a successful joint bid by health agencies in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

NHS England has selected counties to take part in the scheme, known as the NHS Diabetes Prevention Programme.

From April, Type 2 diabetes sufferers in the county will be offered tailored support after the county's Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) had a joint bid accepted to participate.

Dr Amar Latif, clinical lead for long-term conditions for Oxfordshire CCG, said: "This is a really exciting opportunity for us to tackle the ticking time bomb that is diabetes.

"Prevention is the best approach and I believe patients will embrace the scheme knowing they're taking a positive step towards a healthier future."

Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire is one of 13 areas across the country selected to take part in the programme.

It will support 100,000 people a year across the country by 2020 through tailored, personalised help to reduce their risk.

In the UK, about 3.2 million people have the condition and by 2025 it is predicted this will increase to five million, at an estimated cost of £23.7bn to the NHS.

Meanwhile, an Oxford University study suggests that an NHS programme for screening those at high risk of the condition is unlikely to have much impact.

The 'screen and treat' policy to prevent Type 2 diabetes, in which people are identified as "high risk" and offered individual intervention, would give too many people an incorrect diagnosis due to inaccurate blood tests, the study revealed.

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Wildlife park extends measures on bird flu

By George Welch

COTSWOLD Wildlife Park has continued with the closure of parts of its bird enclosures after the Government extended a prevention zone against bird flu.

The park near Burford shut areas of its estate, including its tropical house and walk-through aviary, after the highly infectious outbreak at the start of last month.

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone that has been in place since December 6 has been extended until February 28 to help protect poultry and captive birds from avian flu, the Chief Veterinary Officer announced Wednesday last week.

In a statement on Thursday last week, the park said: "If you are visiting over the next few weeks please be aware that due to recent outbreaks of avian influenza (bird flu) in Europe and now the UK, we have taken some precautions to help protect our birds and prevent further spread of the virus.

"Therefore some bird enclosures are closed. Closed areas will include the Tropical House, Bird Walkthrough Aviary in the Walled Garden (although the birds in here can still be seen from the footpath) and part of the South American Walk-through. This includes the Wolves due to their location next to our waterfowl lake.

"We apologise for any inconvenience and would like to thank you for your understanding at this time. Please check our website for updates."

This latest outbreak of the H5N8 strain of the infection was confirmed in Wales last week after chickens and ducks were culled.

Chief Veterinary Officer Nigel Gibbens said: "We must continue to be vigilant and do all we can to protect against this highly pathogenic strain of the disease, which is why we are extending the Prevention Zone, have introduced a ban on poultry gatherings and continue to strengthen surveillance to understand the extent of infection in wild birds."

• *Green Aracari birds, who reside in the Tropical House, and, inset, East African Crowned Cranes Pictures: Cotswold Wildlife Park*

Hotel chain reveals list of valuables left by guests in rooms

NEXT time you leave a hotel check you have everything with you - unlike some guests as revealed by one of the UK's largest independent hotel chains.

Travelodge's Lost & Found has uncovered all manner of things left behind at its Oxford hotel in Abingdon Road in the last 12 months, including a four-foot cuddly camel, a Mercedes AMG Car, two tickets to Australia, an Air Mac laptop, and even a Nikon DSLR camera worth £5,000.

• *Travelodge in Abingdon Road, Oxford*

Some of the finds left at the chain's other 525 hotels are equally as astonishing.

A hotel housekeeper was surprised to find a family of three generations of gnomes in room 14 of the Dundee Strathmore Travelodge.

At the Manchester Piccadilly Travelodge, a housekeeper walked into a room to find a guest had left a trio of prosthetic legs, each adorned with a different designer shoe.

Shakila Ahmed, Travelodge spokeswoman, said: "With over 18 million customers annually staying across hotels for a variety of reasons, we do get some interesting and precious items being left behind such as a cat called Yoda, a necklace made of £50 notes and wedding vows from the 1950s.

"Our customers tell us that the pace of modern life is fast and furious and time is of the essence, especially when getting from A to B, therefore valuable possessions are easily being forgotten."

The 10 most popular items left at Travelodge hotels during 2016 included chargers, tablets, mobile phones, business papers and teddy bears.

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Volunteers sought as snow wardens

By Samantha McGregor

AS a council puts plans in place to keep Banbury moving in severe winter weather a call has gone out for volunteers.

Banbury Town Council is looking for volunteers and businesses to keep roads where they live and work free of snow and ice.

The move is part of plans to extend a snow warden scheme which has been running since 2013.

The Neighbourhood Snow Warden Scheme sees community-minded men and women organise the gritting of roads and pavements in areas where they live.

Businesses in the town could get involved by gritting pavements outside their shops and offices.

About 80 wardens are already in place but to date have rarely been called into action because of a succession of mild winters.

But this year ice has already been a problem – and more wardens are needed to be on stand-by.

Cllr Kieron Mallon, leader of the town council, said: "Snow wardens are valued members of the community.

"They keep roads, pavements and footpaths safer for everyone throughout the winter, particularly elderly and vulnerable residents who cannot help themselves.

"Wardens help keep the town moving at times when snow and ice could restrict travel to and from work, schools and shops.

"Businesses can do their bit by gritting outside their places of work."

He added: "Councils do their best to keep roads and pavements safe but most people realise they cannot get everywhere instantly – but on-the-spot volunteers can act straightaway.

"The scheme is a great way of getting communities working together during bad weather."

The council supplies everything the volunteers need – and also provides training for the role.

The project has been set up by the town council in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council and is based on similar schemes already up and running in many towns and cities across the country.

Cllr Mallon added: "The scheme is tried and tested and works well in many other places.

"It is a perfect example of the community coming together for the common good."

For more information, contact Banbury Town Council at its office in Bridge Street or call 01295 250340.

• Cllr Kieron Mallon is appealing for more residents to volunteers as snow wardens

Crews tackle chimney fire

FIREFIGHTERS had to remove a chimney stack on a home near Thame after a fire made it unstable.

The house in Tetsworth was still decked out for Christmas when flames came shooting out of the top of the chimney.

Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service was alerted at 10.35am on Friday, sending fire crews from the Thame and Watlington stations to the scene of the chimney blaze.

Incident commander, station manager Paul Webster urged people to ensure chimneys were swept regularly.

He said: "Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service recommends regular sweeping of chimneys to minimise the chances of a fire occurring; as the cold weather begins to set in, now is the perfect time to have your chimney swept.

"Remember to have your chimney swept at least once a year, ideally before you light your first log or coal fire. Don't let the sparks fly, make sure embers are under control, put out properly before you go out or to bed and use a British Standard fireguard to prevent sparks escaping."

He also reminded people to store firewood away from fireplaces or stoves as there is a risk of accidental ignition via radiated heat.

• Heat from the fire forced the removal of the chimney stack

News Bites

Prisoner absconds

BICESTER: Police are appealing for information after a 35-year-old inmate absconded from Springhill Open Prison at Grendon Underwood, near Bicester.

Gavin Burnett, who disappeared last Friday at about 3pm, has links to Milton Keynes and Northamptonshire.

He is described as being white, of medium build, 5ft 11ins tall, with short brown hair and blue eyes, and was last seen wearing a black and blue gilet, dark blue jeans and dark trainers.

Police said he was not believed to be a danger to the public, but urged anyone who spotted him to call 999.

Carols raise cash

THAME: The Carols around the Christmas Tree event, in High Street, Thame, on Christmas Eve raised £600 for town mayor Linda Emery's charities.

The cash will be split between the Red Kite Children's Centre and Thame & District Day Centre.

Festival tickets

THAME: Tickets have gone on sale for this year's Towersey Festival staged near Thame.

The music event is being held from August 25 to 28 and Demon Barbers XL have just been announced as the 2017 finale act.

View towerseyfestival.com

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Now in its third year, the 2017 show – which will be held at ExCeL London from 23-26 February – will be the biggest and best yet. And, with more than 700 of the world's most stunning classic cars on display plus innovative features such as The Grand Avenue, Car Club Square and the brand new Historic Motorsport International, it really isn't to be missed. We have five pairs of Sunday tickets to giveaway in this special competition.

Highlights include a 'red sea' of fabulous Ferraris, celebrating the legendary Italian company's 70th birthday. Among the mouth-watering £100m collection on show will be eye-catching greats such as the wondrous GTO, Daytona, Dino and F40.

Another popular feature is The Grand Avenue, a ground-breaking roadway running through the very centre of the display stands. It means The London Classic Car Show is no mere static exhibition but a living, breathing homage to the automobile where visitors can not only see but also hear their favourite classics in action.

Closing date: Friday, February 17

The 2017 London Classic Car Show is also certain to attract many celebrities from the motoring world. The roll-call from previous years includes F1 stars Jenson Button and David Coulthard, TV's James May and racing icon Sir Stirling Moss. More big names are promised for 2017.

Advance tickets to the 2017 London Classic Car Show are available from the show website – thelondonclassiccarshow.co.uk – with adult admission priced from just £24.

WIN TICKETS!

To win a pair of tickets to Sunday's show, simply answer this simple question:

Q: Which legendary Italian car manufacturer will be celebrating its 70th birthday at the 2017 London Classic Car Show?

Maserati, Ferrari or Lamborghini?

Jodie Kidd and Jenson Button are two of the motoring celebs who have visited the show.

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Meeting Mandy was spellbinding

says Stephen Mulhern

A Slimming World Consultant from Witney has got the magic touch when it comes to weight loss this New Year, according to TV presenter Stephen Mulhern.

Mandy Widdows, who runs a Slimming World group at Stow Primary School, Stow On The Wold every Monday and Lower Town Hall, Chipping Norton every Tuesday, was delighted to get a chance to cuddle up to Stephen when he presented the annual Slimming World Awards. He co-hosted the event with the organisation's founder and chair Margaret Miles-Bramwell OBE.

Mandy said meeting Stephen was a wonderful way to round off a great 12 months for the Stow On The Wold Slimming World group, as well as a brilliant way to get ready for another successful year: "I couldn't be prouder of the members of the Stow On The Wold group. They've lost fantastic amounts of weight throughout 2016, with many of them making their weight loss dreams come true by hitting their target weight, improving their health and confidence, and more.

"It's so rewarding to see people being able to do things that they didn't think possible before losing weight, whether that's having more energy and confidence, wearing smaller clothes, taking up new hobbies, reducing medication or doing more with their family and friends. Every week I feel so lucky to play even a small part in people's achievements and I felt very honoured to represent the Stow On The Wold Slimming World group when I met Stephen. He was bowled over by the difference Slimming World makes to people and how it changes their lives, so meeting him has re-inspired me and now I feel super motivated to support even more people in Witney to lead healthier, happier lives in 2017."

Stephen, who presents Catchphrase, Britain's Got More Talent and Big Star's Little Stars, said he was thrilled to meet Mandy at the event, which was held at Birmingham's International Convention Centre.

He added: "I'm known for my magic tricks and there was definitely magic in the air at the Slimming World Awards. The stories I heard from people who had lost amazing amounts of weight and transformed themselves – inside and out – were so inspirational.

So many slimmers talked about how their weight loss has allowed them to start really living and be the people that they always dreamed of being – doing things they previously thought they couldn't, from running for miles to playing with their children and grandchildren.

"While all of their stories were different, the one thing they all had in common was how much they felt they owed to their 'Slimming World family'. Every one of them spoke passionately about how they felt that they couldn't have achieved everything they had or made the changes they have to eat more healthily and become more active without the support, advice and encouragement of their group each and every week. So people like Mandy are clearly very important."

Mandy says 2016 has been a big year for Slimming World, with the organisation welcoming hundreds of thousands of members and winning awards for both its food range and Slimming World magazine, and hopes 2017 will be just as successful.

"Lots of people will be making resolutions to lose weight and improve their health this New Year. I truly believe that joining a local Slimming World group is the best way for people to lose weight and learn new habits. Thanks to our Food Optimising eating plan they'll see big results on the scales without ever having to feel hungry or deprived, and at the Stow On The Wold group they'll discover a whole world of support and advice that's sure to help them reach their targets – and have a lot of fun along the way, too! I'd love anyone who's thinking about losing weight this January to join us at Stow Primary School, Stow On The Wold every Monday and Lower Town Hall, Chipping Norton every Tuesday."

To *live happy* with Slimming World in 2017 call Mandy on 01608 641923 or visit **www.slimmingworld.co.uk** to find your nearest group.

Picture caption: Slimming World Consultant Mandy Widdows meets TV presenter Stephen Mulhern.

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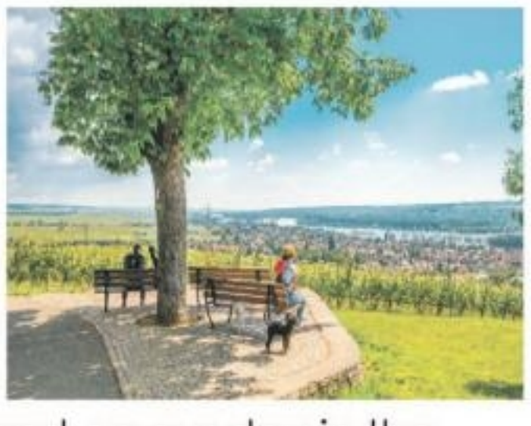

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Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

1 Purchased (6)
7 Set free (7)
8 Tile (7)
9 Circles (5)
10 Characteristic (9)
12 Relative (3)
13 Rend (4)
15 Member of legislative group (7)
17 Ocean movement (4)
19 Snare (3)
21 Covered with swellings (9)
22 Make merry (5)
23 Tell (7)
24 Trips (7)
25 Pamper (6)

Quick Clues Down

1 Cellar (8)
2 Alliances (6)
3 Sanitary science (7)
4 Frighten (5)
5 Drive (6)
6 Curves (4)
7 Sources (11)
11 Pry (4)
13 Large plant (4)
14 Most prepared (8)
16 Great Lake (7)
18 Consecrate (6)
20 Entertains (6)
21 Plain-spoken (5)
22 Covering (4)

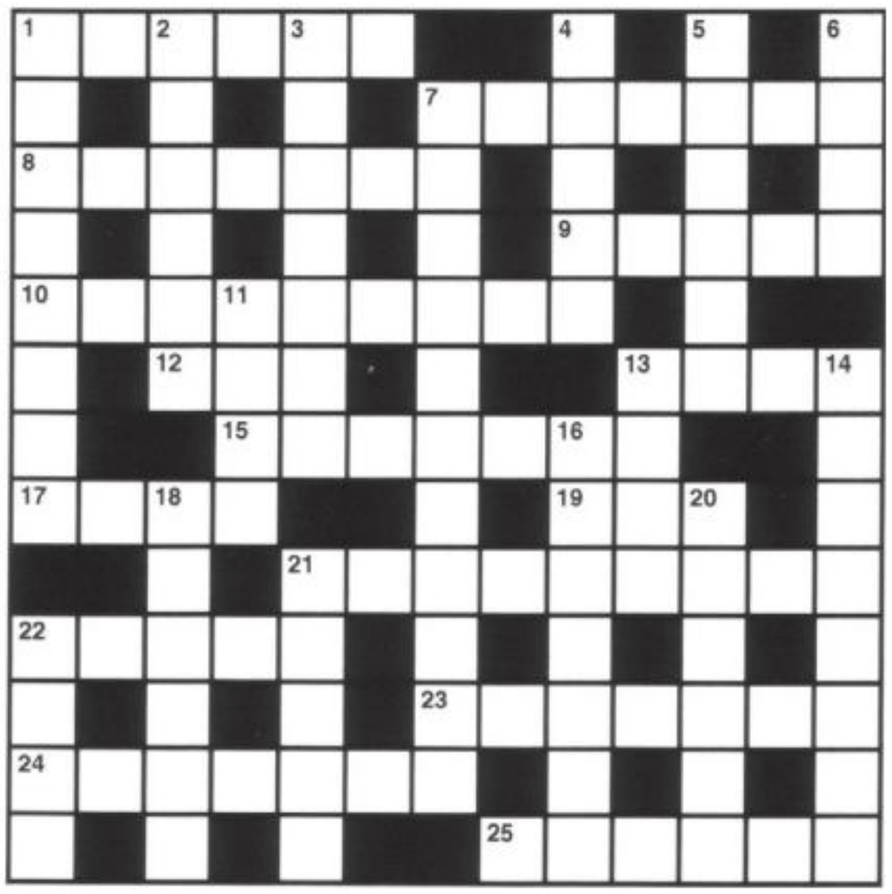
Scribble space

Cryptic Clues Across

1 Give joy by putting six in reckless surroundings (6)
7 The ultimate from the river, by the sound of it (7)
8 Respects the dirt in the commercials? (7)
9 Get to the stretch of water (5)
10 Care for the worker? At first, it's waiting (9)
12 Bend back a source of heat (3)
13 Seasonal plant (4)
15 Pause about jealousy (7)
17 Devours most of the animal foods (4)
19 Or holding a blade (3)
21 Carrying out the duties of a hangman (9)
22 Overlay the disguise (5)
23 Working to get one fish? (7)
24 Or is Sue otherwise solemn? (7)
25 Produces by degrees? (6)

Cryptic Clues Down

1 Concerning the present age, can it be interesting to peruse? (8)
2 Leaves out five at the beginning, and is sick (6)
3 Unusual to wander under the road (7)
4 Begin to find a loose woman below the initial surface (5)
5 Tell how it could connect? (6)
6 Noah's son could be in such a trap (4)
7 Recent maps to the south show diffs (11)
11 Organs in the cornfields (4)
13 High temperature in the Atlantic (4)
14 Misses the luggage? (8)
16 Voyager who might solicit a rising man to come inside (7)
18 The vet ran out to the hotel (6)
20 I'd be in the ring on horseback (6)
21 Sin or make a mistake (5)
22 Have all the actors a squint? (4)



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Puzzles

Sudoku

The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 sub-grids that compose the grid (also called "boxes", "blocks", "regions", or "sub-squares") contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid, which for a well-posed puzzle has a unique solution.

EASY/MEDIUM/HARD

	2		9	1		8	7	
8					3	1		
	4				2	9		5
1	6			3		2		
7			2		9			3
		4		7			9	8
3		2	8				6	
		5	6					9
	8	6		5	1		4	

	8						1	
	3	7		6		2	5	
		5	1		8	4		
			4		3			
	1						3	
			2		6			
		6	3		9	5		
	9	3		4		8	6	
	2						9	

9	4		8					
	1			4				
	3	2						
6		4	1			5		
3			9		8			2
		9			3	7		6
						3	1	
				7			6	
					5		9	7

This week's solutions

9	8	1	2	5	6	3	4	7
4	6	5	9	3	7	1	8	2
2	3	7	4	8	1	6	5	9
5	9	3	7	4	2	8	1	6
8	7	6	3	1	9	5	2	4
1	4	2	8	6	5	9	7	3
3	2	9	6	7	4	8	3	1
6	5	4	1	9	8	2	6	7
7	1	8	5	2	3	4	9	6

5	2	3	9	1	6	8	7	4
8	9	7	5	4	3	1	2	6
6	4	1	7	8	2	9	3	5
1	6	9	4	3	8	2	5	7
7	5	8	2	6	9	4	1	3
2	3	4	1	7	5	6	9	8
3	7	2	8	9	4	5	6	1
4	1	5	6	2	7	3	8	9
9	8	6	3	5	1	7	4	2

9	4	3	8	2	5	1	6	7
8	1	6	7	4	9	5	2	3
7	3	2	6	1	8	4	9	5
6	8	4	1	5	7	9	3	2
3	5	1	9	6	8	7	4	2
2	9	7	4	3	2	8	5	6
4	6	8	5	9	3	2	1	7
1	2	9	3	8	4	6	7	5
5	7	3	2	7	1	4	6	8

Quick Crossword

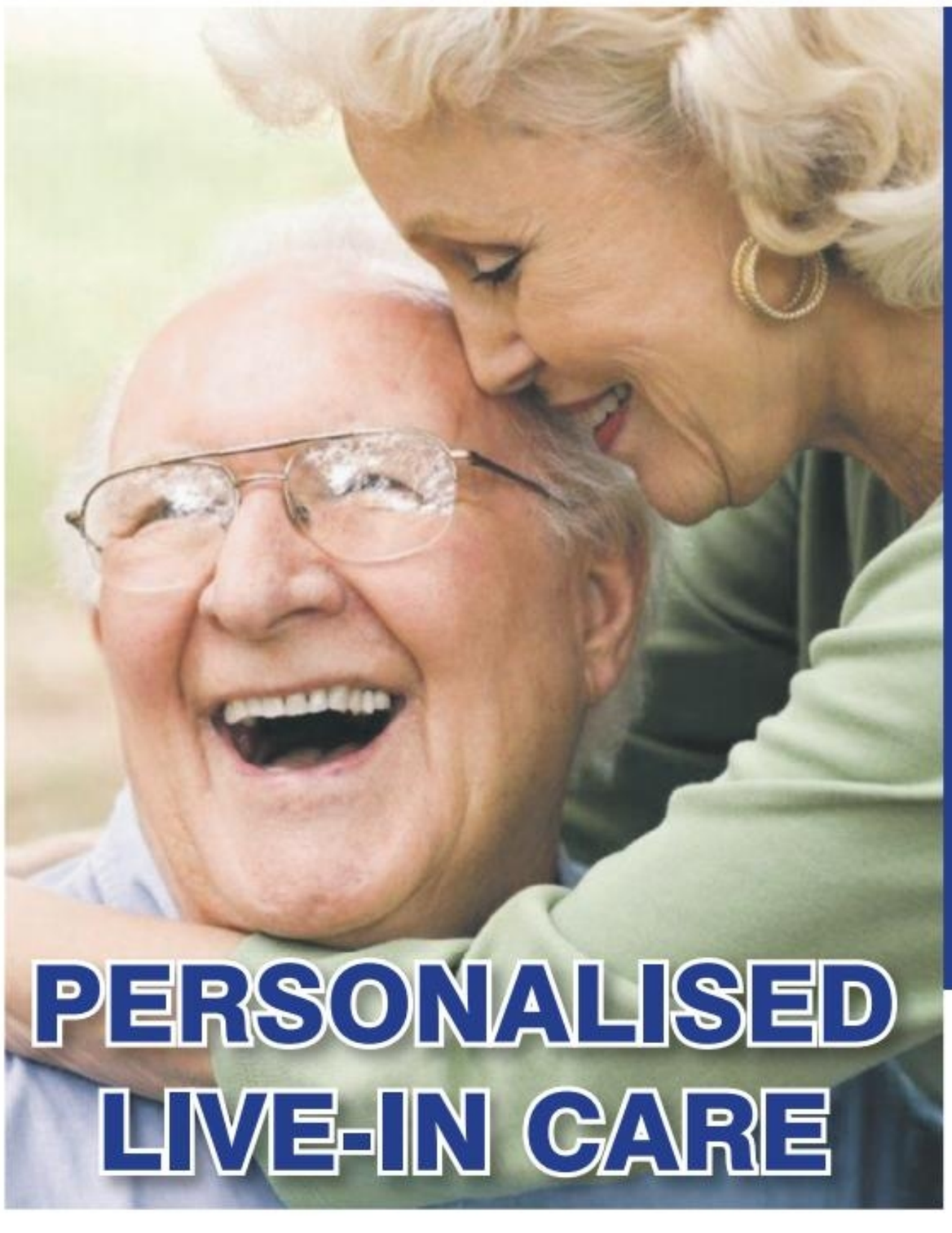
Across: 1 Bought 7 Deliver 8 Shingle 9 Rings 10 Mannerism 12 Son 13 Tear 15 Senator 17 Tide 19 Net 21 Blistered 22 Revel 23 Narrate 24 Outings 25 Cosset

Down: 1 Basement 2 Unions 3 Hygiene 4 Alarm 5 Avenue 6 Arcs 7 Derivations 11 Nose 13 Tree 14 Realtest 16 Ontario 18 Devote 20 Treats 21 Blunt 22 Roof

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Ravish 7 Extreme 8 Admires 9 Reach 10 Attendant 12 Sag 13 Herb 15 Respite 17 Eats 19 Oar 21 Executing 22 Cover 23 Toiling 24 Serious 25 Stages

Down: 1 Readable 2 Vomits 3 Strange 4 Start 5 Relate 6 Mesh 7 Escarpments 11 Ears 13 Heat 14 Baggages 16 Tourist 18 Tavern 20 Riding 21 Error 22 Cast



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SOUTH American flair will be heading to the Oxford Playhouse on Wednesday, January 18, as Tangomotion comes to town.
See inside for more.

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Saturday January 14th

DAYTIME

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast (S) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen** (S) **11.30 The Best Dishes Ever** (S)(R) **12.00 Football Focus** (S) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **2.15 Wanted Down Under** (S) **3.15 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **4.00 Final Score** (S) **5.20 BBC News** (S) **5.30 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **5.40 Celebrity Mastermind** (S) **6.10 Pointless Celebrities** (S)

7
7.00 Let It Shine Gary Barlow, Dannii Minogue, Martin Kemp and Amber Riley continue to audition would-be pop princes. (S)

8
8.25 Casualty A scuffle at an illegal rave leads to a serious injury. (S)

9
9.15 Taboo James Delaney sets about enlisting allies to help him reclaim his legacy, but an unexpected arrival at the reading of his father's will threatens to disrupt his plans. (S)

10
10.15 BBC News; Weather; (S) National Lottery Update (S)
10.30 Match of the Day Gabby Logan presents action from the latest Premier League matches. (S)

11

AFTER 12
12.00 FILM The Ring (2002) (15) Supernatural horror remake, starring Naomi Watts. (S) **1.45** Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **1.50** BBC News (S)

BBC2

6.45 FILM Higher and Higher (1943) (U) (S) **8.15 FILM The Magic Box (1951) (U)** (S) **10.00 Secret Britain** (S)(R) **11.00 Homes Under the Hammer** (S)(R) **12.00 Exploring China: A Culinary Adventure** (S)(R) **1.00 FILM Ice Station Zebra (1968) (U)** (S) **3.20 Flog It!** (S)(R) **4.00 Mastermind** (S)(R) **4.30 University Challenge** (S)(R) **5.00 Only Connect** (S)(R) **5.30 The World's Most Extraordinary Homes** (S)(R) **6.30 Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise** (S)(R)

7
7.30 Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney Andy Torbet sets out to cross the Pentland Firth as the ancient Orcadians would have done. (S)(R)

8
8.30 Dad's Army Captain Mainwaring puts the defence of the realm before personal pride. (S)(R)

9
9.00 Imagine: Listen to Me Marlon Documentary providing an intimate portrait of Marlon Brando, making use of the actor's own archival audio tapes and home-movie footage. (S)

10
10.40 FILM On the Waterfront (1954) (PG) A former boxer has his conscience pricked when he sees his boss's thugs kill a man. Drama, starring Marlon Brando, Lee J Cobb and Eva Marie Saint. (S)

11

AFTER 12
12.25 FILM Lay the Favorite (2012) (15) Comedy, starring Rebecca Hall. (S) **1.50** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

6.00 CITV 7.30 Scrambled! 9.25 ITV News (S) **9.30 Rebound** (S)(R) **10.25 Guess This House** (S)(R) **11.25 Judge Rinder** (S)(R) **12.30 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.40 River Monsters** (S)(R) **1.10 Bargain Shop Wars** (S)(R) **1.40 FILM The Mummy Returns (2001) (PG)** (S) **4.05 Dance Dance Dance** (S)(R) **5.35 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **5.45 ITV News** (S) **6.00 The Brits Are Coming** (S)

7
7.00 Ninja Warrior UK Competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge. (S)

8
8.00 The Voice UK Jennifer Hudson, Gavin Rossdale, Will.i.am and Tom Jones appraise the talents of more would-be pop icons in the blind auditions. (S)

9
9.30 Through the Keyhole Keith Lemon challenges Eamonn Holmes, Emma Bunton and Jonathan Ross to guess the identities of the celebrities whose homes he peruses. (S)

10
10.30 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.45 FILM Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991) (15) Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Linda Hamilton. (S)

11

AFTER 12
1.15 Jackpot247 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (S)(R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen**

Channel 4

6.15 The King of Queens (S)(R) **7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.30 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.30 The Big Bang Theory** (S)(R) **10.55 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **11.55 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (S)(R) **12.55 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast** (S)(R) **2.00 Darts: BDO Lakeside World Professional Championships** The eighth day of the BDO World Championships. (S) **6.30 Channel 4 News** (S)

7
7.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages Penelope Keith starts her journey in the Cotswolds, and explores the celebrated village of Bibury. (S)(R)

8
8.00 Great Canal Journeys Timothy West and Prunella Scales embark on more waterway adventures, beginning 14 miles west of Venice. (S)(R)

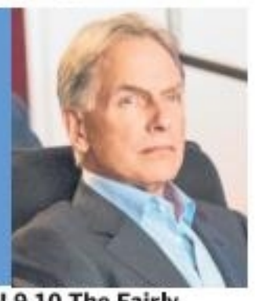
9
9.00 FILM Oblivion (2013) (12) A repairman salvaging resources from a devastated future Earth discovers a secret. Sci-fi adventure, starring Tom Cruise and Morgan Freeman. (S)

10

11
11.30 FILM Immortals (2011) (15) Mythological adventure, with Henry Cavill and Mickey Rourke. (S)

AFTER 12
1.35 Hollyoaks (S) **3.35** Win It Cook It (S)(R) **4.05** Hoarder SOS (S)(R) **5.00** Location, Location, Location (S)(R) **5.55** The King of Queens (S)(R)

Channel 5



6.00 Milkshake! 9.10 The Fairly OddParents (S)(R) **9.45 Big Bash Cricket Live** (S) **1.30 The Hotel Inspector** (S)(R) **2.30 Budgies Make You Laugh Out Loud** (S)(R) **3.30 Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 2** (S)(R) **4.25 Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 3** (S)(R) **5.25 Kittens Make You Laugh Out Loud** (S)(R) **6.25 NCIS: Los Angeles** Sam goes undercover as a bomb specialist. (S)

7
7.10 NCIS: Los Angeles A reporter is murdered. (S)

8
8.00 NCIS Gibbs asks the team to work on a case to bring down a drug dealer. (S)
8.55 5 News Weekend (S)

9
9.00 Football on 5: The Championship George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce action from the latest fixtures. (S)

10
10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush The latest matches from Leagues One and Two. (S)
10.30 Celebrity Big Brother Highlights of the housemates' past 24 hours. (S)

11
11.30 Lip Sync Battle UK: Alexander Armstrong vs Jimmy Carr Hosted by Melanie Brown and Professor Green. (S)(R)

AFTER 12
12.00 SuperCasino 3.05 Celebrity Big Brother (S)(R) **4.00** Celebrity Botched Up Bodies (S)(R) **4.50** Divine Designs (S)(R) **5.15** Divine Designs (S)(R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

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DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 The Hot Desk: Caroline Flack **6.10** Emmerdale **8.55** Coronation Street **11.20** The Big Quiz – Coronation Street v Emmerdale **12.25** Ninja Warrior UK **1.30** 50 Greatest Harry Potter Moments **3.05** FILM: Horrid Henry: The Movie (2011) (U) Concluded. **4.05** FYI Daily **4.10** FILM: Horrid Henry: The Movie (2011) (U) Children's comedy, starring Theo Stevenson. **4.55** FILM: Hotel Transylvania (2012) (U) Animated comedy, with the voice of Adam Sandler. **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00** FILM: Hotel Transylvania (2012) (U) Concluded. **6.45** FILM: The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) (12) Superhero adventure sequel, starring Andrew Garfield. **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50** FILM: The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) (12) Concluded. **9.30** FILM: Wanted (2008) (18) Action adventure, starring James McAvoy and Angelina Jolie. **10.30** FYI Daily **10.35** FILM: Wanted (2008) (18) Concluded. **11.40** Family Guy **1.05** American Dad! **2.00** Dads **2.20** Safeword **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 Judge Judy **6.20** Murder, She Wrote **9.20** FILM: Columbo: Make Me a Perfect Murder (1978) (PG) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **11.25** FILM: Hidden Treasure (2001) Drama, starring John Thaw. **1.30** A Touch of Frost **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.00** Blue Murder **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Timeshift: The Golden Age of Coach Travel. The history of coach transport. **8.00** Inside Chernobyl's Mega Tomb **9.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **10.00** The Young Montalbano **11.45** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.20** Elvis Costello: Mystery Dance **1.20** Later Presents – Elvis Costello in Concert **2.20** Great Guitar Riffs at the BBC **3.20** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Rude(ish) Tube **7.05** Suburgatory **8.00** Black-ish **9.00** How I Met Your Mother **10.00** Melissa & Joey **11.00** Baby Daddy **12.00** Black-ish **1.00** Young & Hungry **2.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** FILM: Friends with Benefits (2011) (15) Romantic comedy, starring Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis. **11.15** Gogglebox **1.25** The Inbetweeners **2.25** Chewing Gum **2.50** Tattoo Fixers **3.45** Bad Robots **4.10** Suburgatory **4.50** Revenge

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Homes by the Sea **9.55** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun **11.00** Building the Dream **12.00** Come Dine with Me **2.40** Four in a Bed **5.25** Come Dine with Me **8.00** The Mystery of the Crossrail Skulls **9.00** 9/11: 102 Minutes That Changed America **11.15** 24 Hours in A&E **12.20** 8 Out of 10 Cats **1.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **3.15** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free **3.35** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 The Black Arrow (1948) (U) **1.00** The Jane Austen Book Club (2007) (12) Romantic comedy, with Kathy Baker and Maria Bello. **3.05** First Daughter (2004) (PG) Romantic comedy, starring Katie Holmes and Marc Blucas. **5.15** The Spy Next Door (2010) (PG) Comedy, starring Jackie Chan. **7.00** Legend (1985) (PG) Fantasy adventure, with Tom Cruise. **9.00** The Family (2013) (15) Comedy thriller, with Robert De Niro and Michelle Pfeiffer. **11.15** Blue Ruin (2014) (15) Thriller, starring Macon Blair. **1.00** Bully (2001) (18) **3.20** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.10 Rocket City Rednecks **8.00** Deadliest Pests Down Under **9.00** Storage Hunters **10.00** Steve Austin's Broken Skull Challenge **12.00** Motorway Cops **1.00** Top Gear **2.00** QI XL **4.00** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish **5.00** Taskmaster **6.00** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish **7.00** Red Dwarf **9.00** Mock the Week **11.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **1.00** QI XL **2.00** Gavin & Stacey **2.30** Live at the Electric **3.35** The Indestructibles **4.00** Close

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 Pie in the Sky **11.00** Sharpe **1.00** Pie in the Sky **5.00** One Foot in the Grave **7.00** New Tricks **8.00** Jonathan Creek **9.00** Wallander **11.00** Waking the Dead **1.25** New Tricks **2.30** Gracie! **4.00** Close

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Ashley Banjo's Big Town Dance **7.00** Monkey Business **8.00** The Big Spell **9.00** The Fantasy Football Club **10.00** Soccer AM **11.30** What's Up **12.00** Futurama **3.00** Monkey Business **4.00** Modern Family **7.00** The Simpsons **8.00** Monkeys: An Amazing Animal Family **9.00** FILM: xXx2: The Next Level (2005) (12) Action sequel, starring Ice Cube. **11.00** A League of Their Own US Road Trip **12.00** Duck Quacks Don't Echo **1.00** Karl Pilkington: The Moaning of Life **2.00** Police Force: Australia **5.00** Road Wars

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 The West Wing **11.00** The Making of David Attenborough's Natural History Museum Alive **12.00** David Attenborough's Natural History Museum Alive **1.30** David Attenborough's Flying Monsters **3.00** Without a Trace **8.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** FILM: The Departed (2006) (18) Gangster thriller, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Matt Damon. **11.50** FILM: Requiem for the Dead (2015) (12) Documentary exploring the frequency of gun-related deaths in America. **1.15** The Wire **2.25** Without a Trace **4.15** Storm City

W SKY: 109

6.10 Crisis **7.00** Motorway Cops: A Traffic Cops Special **8.00** The Bill **1.00** EastEnders **3.30** Bin There, Dump That **4.00** Extreme Makeover: Home Edition **6.00** My Family **8.00** Inside the Ambulance **9.00** FILM: Scream (1996) (18) Horror, starring Neve Campbell. **11.15** FILM: The Long Kiss Goodnight (1996) (18) Action thriller, starring Geena Davis. **1.40** Million Dollar Intern **2.35** Betty White's Off Their Rockers **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 Cheers **7.30** Lovejoy **10.25** Last of the Summer Wine **11.40** Only Fools and Horses **2.25** FILM: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls (1995) (PG) Comedy sequel, starring Jim Carrey. **4.00** Only Fools and Horses **8.00** We Have Been Watching. Shows including Absolutely Fabulous and Hancock are appraised. **9.00** Miranda. The joke-shop owner vows to get fit. **11.00** Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle **12.20** Steve Coogan: The Man Who Thinks He's It **2.30** Bellamy's People **3.05** Human Remains **4.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Football League Gold **7.00** Football's Greatest Players **8.00** Game Changers **8.30** Premier League Preview **9.00** The Fantasy Football Club **10.00** Soccer AM **11.30** Live Premier League. Tottenham Hotspur v West Bromwich Albion (kick-off 12.30pm). **3.00** Gillette Soccer Saturday **5.15** Live EFL. Wolverhampton Wanderers v Aston Villa (kick-off 5.30pm). **8.00** EFL Goals **8.30** Nissan Game of the Day **10.30** Nissan Match Choice **11.30** Premier League Highlights **1.00** Sky Sports Boxing Gold **1.30** Live Fight Night International. **5.00** Premier League Highlights

Sunday January 15th

BBC1

Countryfile, 6.30pm

DAYTIME

6.00 Breakfast (S) **7.30 Match of the Day** (S)(R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show** (S) **10.00 The Big Questions** (S) **11.00 Sunday Politics** (S) **12.15 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Homes Under the Hammer** (S)(R) **2.00 Wanted Down Under Revisited** (S)(R) **2.45 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **3.30 Spy in the Wild** (S)(R) **4.30 Songs of Praise** (S) **5.05 Call the Midwife: The Casebook** (S) **6.05 BBC News** (S) **6.20 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) **6.30 Countryfile** (S)

7

7.30 Antiques Roadshow Holocaust Memorial Fiona Bruce and the team examine items connected to the Holocaust and listen to the stories of survivors. (S)

8

8.30 Still Open All Hours Granville has a clever plan to lure customers to buy outdated Christmas puddings. (S)

9

9.00 Sherlock Sherlock and John face their greatest challenge, as long-buried secrets catch up with them and a threat from the past seems to have returned from the dead. Last in the series. (S)

10

10.30 BBC News (S)
10.50 BBC Regional News; Weather (S)

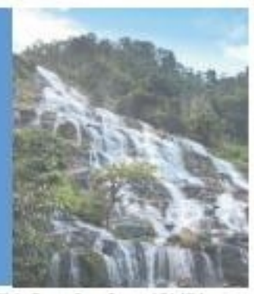
11

11.10 The Graham Norton Show With Ben Affleck, Sienna Miller, Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone. (S)(R)
11.45 The Celebrity Apprentice USA (S)

AFTER **12**

1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **1.15** BBC News (S)

BBC2


Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise, 9pm

6.15 A to Z of TV Gardening (S)(R) **7.00 Big Dreams Small Spaces** (S)(R) **8.00 An Island Parish: Anguilla** (S)(R) **8.30 The Edible Garden** (S)(R) **9.00 Countryfile** (S)(R) **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites** (S) **11.30 Talking Snooker** (S) **12.15 MOTD2 Extra** (S) **1.00 Live Snooker: The Masters** (S) **5.15 Yellowstone: The Toughest Spring** (S)(R) **6.15 Ski Sunday** The men's World Cup downhill (S)

7.00 City in the Sky Dallas Campbell and Dr Hannah Fry present a documentary exploring aviation. (S)(R)

8.00 Dragons' Den An inventor shows off a new kind of garden shed and Touker Suleyman agrees to road test a waxing product. (S)

9.00 Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise The mountains and forests of Northern Thailand, where unusual partnerships develop between animals and people. Last in the series. (S)

10.00 Match of the Day 2 Including highlights of Manchester United v Liverpool. (S)
10.50 QI XL With Matt Lucas, Jerry Springer and Cariad Lloyd. (S)

11.35 Snooker: The Masters Ding Junhui v Kyren Wilson. (S)

12.25 Snooker: The Masters – Extra (S) **2.25** Sign Zone: Question Time (S)(R) **3.25** Holby City (S)(R) **4.25** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

Dance Dance Dance, 6.30pm

6.00 CITV 7.30 Scrambled! 9.25 ITV News (S) **9.30 Countrywise** (S)(R) **10.00 Peston on Sunday** (S) **11.00 Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy** (S)(R) **11.30 Chopping Block** (S)(R) **12.30 ITV News;** Weather (S) **12.35 Judge Rinder** (S)(R) **1.35 Tipping Point** (S)(R) **2.35 Ninja Warrior UK** (S)(R) **3.35 The Voice UK** (S)(R) **5.05 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **5.15 ITV News** (S) **5.30 The Chase: Celebrity Special** (S)(R) **6.30 Dance Dance Dance** (S)

8.00 Endeavour The detective investigates the death of a bricklayer working on a controversial singer's house. (S)

10.00 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.15 Peston on Sunday Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (S)(R)

11.15 The Brits Are Coming A special live show announcing which artists are in the running to receive gongs at this year's Brit Award ceremony. (S)(R)

12.15 Jackpot247 3.00 Chopping Block (S)(R) **3.50 ITV Nightscreen 5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R)

Channel 4

Walking the Americas, 8pm

6.20 The King of Queens (S)(R) **7.10 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **8.30 Frasier** (S)(R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch** (S) **12.30 The Simpsons** (S)(R) **1.55 FILM St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) (PG)** (S) **3.55 Channel 4 News** (S) **4.15 Darts: BDO Lakeside World Professional Championships** The men's final of the BDO World Championships. (S)

8.00 Walking the Americas Levison Wood visits a unique Caribbean town that is populated by the descendants of shipwrecked African slaves. (S)

9.00 FILM Bad Neighbours (2014) (15) Premiere. A suburban couple enter into a vicious game of one-upmanship. Comedy, starring Seth Rogen, Zac Efron and Rose Byrne. (S)

10.50 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Jimmy Carr hosts, as Sean Lock and Stephen Mangan team up against Noel Fielding and Fay Ripley. (S)(R)

11.55 FILM Hanna (2011) (12) A girl trained by her father to be an assassin travels the world on a secret mission. Action thriller, with Saoirse Ronan.

1.55 How to Lose Weight Well (S)(R) **2.50** The Autistic Gardener (S)(R) **3.45** Jamie's Comfort Food (S) **3.55** Location, Location, Location (S)(R) **4.55** Location, Location, Location (S)(R) **5.50** 3rd Rock from the Sun (S)(R)

Channel 5

Celebrity Botched Up Bodies, 10.05pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 The Fairly OddParents (S)(R) **10.30 Football on 5: The Championship** (S)(R) **11.25 Football on 5: Goal Rush** (S)(R) **12.00 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops** (S)(R) **12.25 FILM Message in a Bottle (1999) (12)** (S) **2.50 FILM Six Days Seven Nights (1998) (12)** (S) **4.45 FILM You've Got Mail (1998) (PG)** Romantic comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. (S)

7.00 Now That's Funny! A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly hook, featuring unexpected personal moments. (S)(R)

8.00 Brides Make You Laugh Out Loud Compilation of internet videos featuring weddings. (S)
8.55 5 News Weekend (S)

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt. (S)

10.05 Celebrity Botched Up Bodies Alex Reid undergoes surgery on his nose, while Geordie Shore's Marnie Simpson discusses how her breast enhancement went badly wrong. (S)

11.05 The Roast of Donald Trump An event from 2011 in which the business mogul faces a barrage of insults. (S)(R)

12.35 Impractical Jokers UK (S) **1.00** SuperCasino **3.10 FILM Under the Tuscan Sun (2003) (12)** (S) **4.50** Divine Designs (S)(R) **5.15** Divine Designs (S)(R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 You've Been Framed! **6.25** Emmerdale **9.05** Coronation Street **11.35** The Voice UK **1.00** 2Awesome: 2Awesome **1.05** 2Awesome: Guidance **1.40** 2Awesome: Side Effects **2.20** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **2.40** 2Awesome: LA Story **3.00** FILM: Space Jam (1996) (U) Live action and animated comedy, with Michael Jordan. **4.00** FYI Daily **4.05** FILM: Space Jam (1996) (U) Concluded. **4.45** FILM: Despicable Me 2 (2013) (U) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Steve Carell. **5.45** FYI Daily **5.50** FILM: Despicable Me 2 (2013) (U) Concluded. **6.45** FILM: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) (12) Fantasy adventure, starring Martin Freeman and Ian McKellen. **7.45** FYI Daily **7.50** FILM: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) (12) Concluded. **10.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.50** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 Where the Heart Is **7.45** Heartbeat **9.50** Murder, She Wrote **11.55** FILM: The Mirror Crack'd (1980) (PG) Miss Marple mystery, starring Angela Lansbury. **1.00** FYI Daily **1.05** FILM: The Mirror Crack'd (1980) (PG) Concluded. **2.05** A Touch of Frost **4.20** FILM: Columbo: How to Dial a Murder (1978) (PG) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** This Time Next Year **9.00** Tonight at the London Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** FILM: The English Patient (1996) (15) Oscar-winning romantic drama, with Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas. **11.35** FYI Daily **11.40** FILM: The English Patient (1996) (15) Concluded. **1.40** A Touch of Frost **3.35** May the Best House Win **5.20** You're Only Young Twice **5.40** ITV3 Nightscreen

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 David Starkey's Music & Monarchy. Musical breakthroughs in the 17th century. **8.00** Sword, Musket & Machine Gun: Britain's Armed History. The impact of gunpowder on the battlefield. **9.00** Rich Hall's Presidential Grudge Match **10.30** Bowie at the BBC **11.30** John Berger: The Art of Looking **12.25** Sound of Musicals with Neil Brand **1.25** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **2.25** Roger Bannister: Everest on the Track **3.25** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Rude(ish) Tube **7.05** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** Melissa & Joey **9.00** Baby Daddy **10.00** Hollyoaks **12.30** FILM: Astro Boy (2009) (PG) Animated sci-fi adventure, with the voice of Freddie Highmore. **2.20** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **2.30** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** FILM: Johnny English Reborn (2011) (PG) Spy comedy sequel, starring Rowan Atkinson. **10.05** Tattoo Fixers **11.10** Virtually Famous **12.00** The Inbetweeners **1.05** Gogglebox **2.10** Rude Tube: Ultimate Stunts **3.05** Rude Tube **3.30** Hollyoaks

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Homes by the Sea **10.00** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun **11.00** Car SOS **12.00** Come Dine with Me **2.40** Four in a Bed **5.20** Come Dine with Me **8.00** Car SOS **9.00** Sarah Millican – Home Bird Live **10.05** Father Ted **11.05** Britain's Wildest Weather **12.50** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **2.45** Father Ted **3.45** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 The Frogmen (1951) (U) Second World War thriller, starring Richard Widmark. **1.00** One Fine Day (1996) (PG) Romantic comedy, starring George Clooney and Michelle Pfeiffer. **3.10** Sword of Sherwood Forest (1960) (U) Robin Hood adventure, starring Richard Greene. **4.50** Flight of the Navigator (1986) (U) Sci-fi adventure, starring Joey Cramer. **6.35** Beautiful Creatures (2013) (12) Fantasy, starring Alden Ehrenreich. **9.00** Prometheus (2012) (15) Sci-fi thriller, starring Noomi Rapace. **11.25** Underworld: Awakening (2012) (18) Action fantasy, starring Kate Beckinsale. **1.10** Poetry (2010) (12) Drama, starring Jeong-hie Yun. **4.00** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

7.10 MegaTruckers **8.00** Top Gear **9.40** Motorway Cops **10.45** Traffic Cops **11.50** Jay Leno's Garage **1.40** Top Gear **4.50** Red Bull Soapbox Race **6.20** Top Gear **9.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **11.00** Crackanory **11.40** Room 101 **12.20** Mock the Week **1.40** Crackanory **2.15** Live at the Electric **4.00** Close

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 Pie in the Sky **8.00** The Bill **12.00** Call the Midwife **4.00** Catherine Cookson's The Man Who Cried **7.00** New Tricks **9.00** Silent Witness **11.10** Spooks **1.10** Catherine Cookson's The Man Who Cried **4.00** Close

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Hour of Power **7.00** Monkeys: An Amazing Animal Family **10.00** Monkey Life **11.00** WWE: Raw **12.00** Futurama **2.00** Modern Family **4.30** The Simpsons **5.30** The Big Spell **6.30** The Simpsons **8.00** Freddie Down Under **9.00** Hawaii Five-0 **10.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **11.00** The Force: Manchester **12.00** The Force: Essex **1.00** Ross Kemp on Gangs **2.00** Police Force: Australia **5.00** Road Wars

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 The West Wing **11.00** Without a Trace **4.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness **10.00** The Affair **11.10** Bright Lights : Starring Carrie Fisher And Debbie Reynolds **1.00** The Wire **2.05** Blue Bloods **3.00** The Affair **4.10** Storm City

W SKY: 109

6.00 Best in Town **7.00** Bondi Rescue **8.30** EastEnders **11.00** MasterChef Junior USA **4.00** Doctor Who **6.00** Outnumbered **8.00** One Born Every Minute **9.00** Dynamo: Magician Impossible **10.00** Luther **11.20** Motorway Cops: A Traffic Cops Special **12.25** FILM: The Long Kiss Goodnight (1996) (18) Action thriller, starring Geena Davis. **2.35** Betty White's Off Their Rockers **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 Lovejoy **8.50** Only Fools and Horses **4.10** We Have Been Watching **5.10** Miranda **7.15** Only Fools and Horses **9.00** Miranda **11.00** The Thick of It Special: Spinners and Losers **12.40** Bellamy's People **2.00** Time Trumpet with Armando Iannucci **2.45** Nighty Night **3.00** Human Remains **3.25** Stella Street **3.35** Human Remains **4.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Premier League Highlights **9.00** The Sunday Supplement **10.30** Goals on Sunday **12.30** Live Nissan Super Sunday. Everton v Manchester City (kick-off 1.30pm). **3.30** Live Nissan Super Sunday. Manchester United v Liverpool (kick-off 4.00pm). **7.00** EFL Goals **7.30** Live La Liga Football. Sevilla v Real Madrid (kick-off 7.45pm). **10.00** Premier League Highlights **11.00** Goals on Sunday **12.00** Premier League Highlights **1.00** Sky Sports Boxing Gold **1.30** Darts Gold **2.00** Premier League Years **4.00** Sporting Heroes: Gary Newbon Interviews AP McCoy **5.00** Premier League 100 Club **5.30** Spanish Football Gold

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Turning up the heat in January

By James Richings

IT may be a cold start to 2017 but it will be very hot in Oxford as Tangomotion is on its way to the Oxford Playhouse.

The production, which arrives at the Beaumont Street venue on Wednesday, January 18, will see a number of talented dancers show off their tango skills in a fast paced and energetic affair.

And to give the show that real South American feeling, the dance music will be provided by one of the UK's leading tango companies, Tango Siempre.

So for dancer Richard Manuel, the chance to show off his skills in front of an audience that loves fast and action packed dance moves is a prospect he is very excited about.

Richard believes it will be a show and a night to remember.

"For us, each night is a different night as we do not swim in the same water twice," he told the Guardian.

"And the swimmer is not the same either.

"So every night we try to shine like a star.

"The key elements I would say are 'prepare well, rest and go for it'."

He added: "The show will have wonderful music from Tango Siempre, who play traditional and modern tango tunes and their own striking and powerful compositions.

• *Two dancers perform a passionate tango*

"You'll see world class tango dancers to dazzle your eyes with some shiny and mesmerising costumes."

When it comes to showing off their moves in front of thousands of people, Richard is no stranger to making his audience gasp with excitement.

After falling in love with the activity aged seven, Richard has danced all over the world in countries such as Argentina, Cuba, France, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

And with the show only being in the UK for five dates in which the group of dancers have to travel to theatres in Newbury, Salisbury, Hereford and Newcastle, Richard insists that this is a show that cannot be missed.

"Personally I think every audience appreciates our work to some extent and hopefully everyone will be taking something back home," Richard said.

"Even someone who doesn't know anything about Tango can sense the nuances, the details, the mood, the music.

"Tango is a popular dance, music and poetry.

"It is not the work of an elite, but the voice of its people and this is why it can reach as many people as it does today."

He added: "Personally I think as many people as possible should dance at an early age as a way to know one's body.

"You develop your coordination, your reflexes and you learn to look after your body, to improve some alignments, to work in group and partnership.

"And it gives pleasure and joy to move to music."

Covering all eras

LIVE MUSIC: Hatfield based covers musician Gavin Clarke will be performing at the Oxford Central Conservative Club on Saturday, January 14.

The performer, who has been gigging since he was 14 and will perform tunes from the 40s to the present day.

The free gig starts at 8.30pm.

Burglar Bill is back

THEATRE: Janet and Allan Ahlberg's picture book, 'Burglar Bill', will be brought to life at The Mill Arts Centre in Banbury this Saturday, January 21.

Burglars Bill and Betty have their eyes set on everything they.

Tickets cost £8.50 and it starts at 2.30pm.

All of the hits

LIVE MUSIC: A Roy Orbison tribute show will visiting the New Theatre Oxford on Saturday, January 21 with hits such as Pretty Woman and Crying.

Musician Barry Steele will be performing as the late singer who would have turned 81 this April.

Tickets cost £23.90 and the show starts at 7.30pm.

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"He's a very very funny man" Frank Skinner
Short spots
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Alex Faroe
Jacob Hawley
Nick Dixon is steadily rising on the UK circuit, and is held in high regard by his contemporaries and industry officials alike.
He has recently recorded his second televised stand-up performance, for The Comedy Store on Comedy Central.
"Delightfully offbeat turn of phrase...elegantly constructed writing" Chortle
"Well worth looking out for" Jason Manford
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Andy Askins is a first class, guitar-wielding comedian with a captivating voice and wickedly dry sense of humour. Andy has an expertly crafted routine littered with an eclectic mix of off beat comic songs and parodies. Popular songs have been rewritten and given a perverse twist to tremendous comic effect. With impeccable timing, his inventive and quirky songs are peppered with inspired patter and the darker material is sweetened by his impish demeanour.
As seen on The John Bishop Show – BBC1
"Dark humour with faultless timing" – The Stage
"An awful lot of charm" – Chortle
Caution: this performance will contain some adult humour as well as occasional bad language
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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

Taming the Lyons and other misfits

By James Richings

THE last 12 months have been pretty decent for Zoe Lyons.

The past year has seen the comedian appear on 'Live at the Apollo', work with John Bishop and win the 'Best Comic' category at the Chortle Awards, one of the UK's highest-profile comedy award ceremonies.

But now Zoe is focusing on her brand new stand-up show 'Misfits', which will arrive at The Mill Arts Centre in Banbury on Saturday, January 21.

Her visit to the Spiceball Park venue will be her first show for the year, and she hopes she can start 2017 on a high.

"The show is very loosely themed on the idea of never having fitted in," the 45-year-old told the Guardian.

"I am interested in how humans group themselves together and I think that we have become a lot more tribal of late, particularly when it comes to politics.

"The EU referendum in this country and now the election in the States have polarised populations like never before.

"Problems occur when supporters on opposite sides of an argument refuse to engage in debate with each other."

She added: "Anybody who has seen me before will know I am quite energetic on stage.

"I like to act out my bigger routines, flesh them out with voices.

"I guess there is an element of clowning to my stand up."

After graduating from the University of York in 1992 with a degree in psychology, Zoe first entered the world of show business when she appeared on the reality TV show 'Survivor' back in 2001.

Despite finishing in 11th place out of the 14 contestants, the experience of being on TV gave Zoe the motivation to try stand-up comedy.

A year later she made her debut at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with her 'Shut Up You're Mother' tour, which went down very well with critics and fans, and she has not looked back since.

Regular appearances at the Fringe alongside comedy festivals in Leicester, Dartmouth, Brighton and Melbourne put Zoe on the international comedy circuit, which inevitably lead to television appearances, most notably on 'Mock the Week', appearing on the programme six times in the last eight years.

And Zoe wouldn't change anything for the world.

"I did my first gig about 14 years ago at an open mic night in London and it was five minutes that really changed my life," she said.

"I decided there and then that this was what I was going to do, I was going to be a stand-up.

"I don't think I have ever had what you would call a big break, I am slow burner.

"I have had a series of things that have happened over the years that have spurred my career on."

Tickets cost £15 and it starts at 8pm.

• Zoe Lyons (photo by Mark Vessey)

Touching true life tale

THEATRE: A play inspired by the life of Nina Simone will be performed at the Oxford Playhouse on Saturday, January 21.

'Black is the colour of My Voice', looks at the life of a successful jazz singer and civil rights activist seeking redemption after the untimely death of her father.

Tickets cost from £11 to £18.

It starts at 7.30pm

The Fantastic Fawesome

LIVE MUSIC: High Wycombe based band covers band Fawesome are back at O'Neills on Friday, January 20.

The foursome arrive at the George Street venue to perform tunes from ZZ Top, Bon Jovi and many more.

The free gig starts at 9.30pm.

Jamming in Oxford

LIVE MUSIC: A mix of music will be performed at the Burton Taylor Studios on Thursday, January 12 as Oxjams returns to mark its 20th anniversary.

Instrumentalist George Haslam, Richard Leigh Harris and Steve Kershaw will be performing this evening.

Tickets cost from £8 to £10, with the gig starting at 8pm.

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ENTERTAINMENT & LISTINGS

A mixture of politics and music

By James Richings

A MONTH after his unforgettable gig at the Wychwood Folk Club, musician Ewan McLennan is back in Oxfordshire.

This time he will be joined by writer and political activist George Monbiot, as the twosome prepare for their gig at Oxford's North Wall Arts Centre on Friday, January 13.

The two are teaming up together for their 'Breaking the Spell of Loneliness' UK tour, which will be a world away from your normal Friday night music event.

The show is based on an article that George wrote for The Guardian last year, which talked about how the United Kingdom was voted one of Europe's loneliest countries in the summer of 2014.

The vote was based on how likely we would turn to someone for advice whilst in a crisis, how close we were with our neighbours, if we were satisfied with life, how often we played sport during the week, how healthy we felt, if we are at risk of being in poverty and how good our net income was.

The figures were released by the Office for National Statistics as part of a project that former Prime Minister David Cameron ordered, as he wanted to see how the nation felt as a whole, as well as what the country earns through the economy.

The figures did not make for light reading as each table showed that Britain was either mid table or in the bottom three.

So as George plans his talk about how British citizens can rectify the lowly figures, he believes his on night partner Ewan McLennan will also be a great asset to the event, as he will be providing the music to accompany his speech.

"While loneliness is a global issue, and community seems to be under strain almost everywhere, there is something peculiar about Britain like our Keep Out signs and private lives," George told the Guardian.

"I think it stems in part from the fact that, while other European nations had their revolutions, we went in the opposite direction, with the enclosure movement and the Highland Clearances throwing people off the land and ripping down communities.

"We never really recovered from that."

George then revealed why he wanted Ewan in particular to join him.

"It was a combination of his great talent both as a singer and a player," he said.

"His ability to see to the heart of a song and his lively and intelligent interest in the issues of our times. It seemed like the perfect match – and it has proved to be just that."

Recent figures released by the Campaign to End Loneliness website indicates that loneliness in the UK is at its worst level for a number of years.

And for George, who has admitted to experiencing loneliness at some stage in his life, he hopes he, along with others who are willing to help him, can reduce these numbers in the near future.

"I've had some intense periods of loneliness, especially when I returned to Britain after working for some years abroad," he said.

"It's not writing itself that has made me lonely, though it hasn't helped, but a sense of disconnection from the people around me as I delve into worlds that not many others explore and there's a difference between solitude and loneliness.

"There are plenty of times when I greatly enjoy being by myself; and plenty when I am surrounded by people but feel lonely.

"It hits me particularly hard when I'm around other journalists.

"With a few exceptions, they seem to inhabit a completely different world to mine."

The event will start at 8pm.

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If you have a forthcoming event and wish to advertise it in one or more of Taylor Newspapers titles including this one please call 01235 511700 where we will be pleased to help.
For press releases about forthcoming events please email events@taylornewspapers.co.uk - (photos welcome) - specifying the area that the event is taking place in and we will do our best to promote it for you, space permitting, in one or more of our newspapers.

Thu, Jan 12, 8pm
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
OXJAMS
The Oxford Jazz Masters Series returns to celebrate 20 years of scorching contemporary jazz at the Burton Taylor Studio. The trio have recently released a new CD, Suite of Dreams, that Downtown Music Gallery, New York described as having "a calm, careful and often haunting quality to the music that I dig". Featuring: George Haslam on saxophone, clarinet and tárogató, Richard Leigh Harris on piano, and Steve Kershaw on double bass. With special guests to be announced.

Fri, Jan 13, 8pm
North Wall Arts Centre, Oxford
GEORGE MONBIOT & EWAN MCLENNAN
The celebrated columnist and political/environmental campaigner George Monbiot joins forces with leading folk singer Ewan McLennan for a unique collaboration in words and music.
The venture originated in an article about the personal and social effects of loneliness that George wrote which immediately went viral. He and Ewan subsequently extended the ideas in the article into a series of songs that together make up a new album, Breaking The Spell of Loneliness.

Sat, Jan 14, 11am
The Beacon, Wantage
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS
Ever wonder what your pets do when you're not home? A fast-paced computer-animated adventure comedy blessed with a star-studded voice cast. Two pet dogs who embark on an adventure through New York when they find out that an angry bunny is scheming against humans - this is sure to entertain audiences of all ages, with perhaps an extra dollop of appeal for devoted pet owners!

Sat, Jan 14, 11am and 2pm
North Wall Arts Centre, Oxford
PAT-A-CAKE BABY
Are you ready? Grab a spoon! Because it's Pat-a-cake time! Pitter-patter – get the butter! Glitzy-glossy – whisk in sugar! Jokey-yolky – add the eggs!
Long Nose Puppets offer up a marvellous moonlit show full of riotous rhyme, zany puppets and spiffy special cake; all iced with music and songs by Tom Gray. Little children will feel stuffed to the brim with magic.

Sat, Jan 14, 7.30pm
Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot
SPANISH NIGHT
This is the first Spanish Night show of 2017. Following the stunning success of our inugural Spanish Night (South) show at the end of last year, this show will be the first in a series of Flamenco shows featuring professional Flamenco dance companies from Spain, many visiting the UK for the first time.

Sat, Jan 14, 7.30pm
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
DANCING BEAR, DANCING BEAR
There are two men on stage and they have dressed, they fight and they get aggressive. This is a playful show about how we perceive gender indentity, mixing striking physicality and a hypnotic soundscape.

Sun, Jan 15 – Mon, Jan 16
Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon
AN EVENING WITH EDGAR ALLAN POE
Enter the mysterious and macabre world of Edgar Allan Poe in this chilling performance by ADC Juniors in Abingdon.

Sun, Jan 15 – Mon, Jan 16
New Theatre, Oxford
JACK WHITEHALL
Multi award-winning stand-up comic Jack Whitehall is back on tour and bringing his brand new live show to theatres across the country.

COMEDY

JACK WHITEHALL: AT LARGE is the biggest tour ever from one of the UK's hottest comedy stars. Fresh from hosting the Royal Variety Performance and starring in Bad Education and A League Of Their Own, this is your chance to catch Jack at his dynamic best, live on stage!

Tue, Jan 17, 7.30pm
New Theatre, Oxford
AN EVENING WITH AGGERS AND TUFFS
From the last home Ashes series in 2013, Evenings with Aggers have been delighting audiences all over the country. Now, following in the footsteps of Geoffrey Boycott, Sunil Gavaskar and Graeme Swann, Phil Tufnell teams up with his TMS colleague for a series of shows from February 2016.

Wed, Jan 18, 7.30pm
The Theatre, Chipping Norton
QUEEN OF KATWE
Queen of Katwe is the colourful true drama of a young girl selling corn on the streets of rural Uganda whose world rapidly changes when she is introduced to chess. As a result of the support she receives from her family and community, she is instilled with the determination she needs to pursue her dream of becoming an international chess champion. Directed by the fabulous Mira Nair (Monsoon Wedding). This heartwarming, powerful film stars David Oyelowo (Thelma) and Lupita Nyong'o (12 Years a Slave).

Thu, Jan 19, 7pm
The Beacon, Wantage
OPERA ON FILM: TURANDOT

A Met Opera Production with incredible stage design and featuring 'Nessun Dorma' the famous tenor aria.

Thu, Jan 19, 7.30pm
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
THE REMAINS OF TOM LEHRER
The satirical songs of Tom Lehrer have delighted and horrified audiences for decades, both through his own rare, acerbic performances and in the revue format of the West End and New York hit show Tomfoolery.
Following sell-out London shows, Adam Kay sets out on his debut UK tour with his new take on Lehrer's songbook. Everything from pigeon poisoning to masochistic tango via nuclear oblivion are revisited from the contemporary perspective of this award-winning performer.

Fri, Jan 20, 9pm
New Theatre, Oxford
GHOST HUNT
Enter a mysterious and intriguing supernatural world with 'Haunted Houses' at the New Theatre. Be one of the first to venture after dark, exploring hidden secrets within the stone walls of the oldest theatre in Oxford.

Sat, Jan 21
New Theatre, Oxford
BARRY STEELE & FRIENDS
Barry Steele is widely recognised as one of the world's leading vocalists playing homage to legend Roy Orbison. He has stunned audineces across the globe with his uncanny similarity and ability to authentically revive the exquisite toe tapping sound of this music giant.

Sun, Jan 22, 11am and 2pm
The Beacon, Wantage,
BURGLAR BILL
Capturing the spirit of the book, and with an exciting set featuring lots of windows to climb through, Burglar Bill and Burglar Betty tell this much loved story with the help of puppets, music, song and dance. Burglar Bill has delighted families for nearly forty years. Children aged three plus, and their parents and grandparents will love this show.

Sun, Jan 22, 2pm
Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot
THE BEAR
One night when she's fast asleep, an enormous snowy white bear climbs into Tilly's bedroom. It has a big black tongue and a yawn as big as your head. But Tilly's not scared.With dazzling puppetry, dreamy storytelling and dozens of laughs, The Bear is an unforgettable experience for the whole family. Bring your bear, and join Tilly on a magical adventure.

Tue, Jan 24 – Thu, Jan 26
New Theatre, Oxford
MICHAEL FLATLEY'S LORD OF THE DANCE
Following the phenomenal success of the 2015 UK tour, Michael Flatley's Lord of the Dance: Dangerous Games is excited to announce a return to the UK in 2017 for a 23 city Nationwide tour. Fresh from hugely successful runs in the West End, Broadway, Europe and the Southern Hemisphere, Lord of the Dance: Dangerous Games continues to thrill audiences around the globe with its intoxicating mix of dance and music that fuses the traditional with the contemporary in a classic tale that showcases the exceptional talent of the cast.

Wed, Jan 25, 6pm
O2 Academy, Oxford
THE HUNNA
The story of The Hunna's ascent has truly been one of a kind. Since

bursting onto the music scene, the Hertfordshire four-piece have sold out headlines shows around the world, amassed nearly 10 million Spotify streams and released their debut album, 100.

Wed, Jan 25, 7.30pm
Kenton Theatre, Henley
TONY STOCKWELL
It's not creepy or kooky, mysterious or spooky. It's Psychic Medium Tony Stockwell demonstrating his belief that those who have passed on can communicate with their loved ones. At its best, Mediumship has the potential to change someone's life and to instil in them a sense of peace, comfort and purpose.

Wed, Jan 25 – Sat, Jan 28
Oxford Playhouse, Oxford
EDWARD II
University of Oxford students present a new version of Christopher Marlowe's political thriller. England. The King is dead and his son, Edward II, now sits on the throne, full of radical ideas and driven by a forbidden passion. Torn between his wife, the powerful nobles and his banished lover, Piers Gaveston, Edward is a King caught between love and leadership. Taking inspiration from the tensions created by the fall of the USSR, this production interrogates the relationship between public and private, personal and political. It explores a world where battles are fought behind closed doors and where betrayal is everywhere.

Thu, Jan 26, 7.30pm
Old Fire Station, Oxford
HOPE & SOCIAL
Hope and Social are a band who do things a little bit differently. They wear blue jackets and play mind-blowing, balls-to-the-floor, anything-for-a-laugh, much-more-for-a-tear, heart-on-your-sleeve, foot-on-your-monitor gigs.

Fri, Jan 27, 7.30pm
New Theatre, Oxford
JOHNNY CASH ROADSHOW
The UK's No1 Tribute, fronted by respected singer/songwriter Clive John, with The Spirit Band, re-create with astounding accuracy and truly capture the essence of what it was like to be at a real Cash show! Featuring Amanda Stone as June Carter and two more talented ladies as the Carter Sisters, all aspects of Cash's life are covered with impeccable taste.

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New Subaru worth a look

By **Anthony Yates**

THE Subaru XV 2.0D SE Manual is a handsome-looking SUV which has enough of Subaru's design language behind it to make it different and interesting whilst still providing a link to the rest of the Subaru range.

Indeed, its clear association with the Forester provides a strong clue as to the XV's capabilities on and off road, along with its elevated driving position and one of the highest ground clearances in its class, making it a very purposeful package.

Power and efficiency

The XV was equipped with a powerful and efficient 2.0-litre DOHC Subaru Boxer Diesel engine, a unit that provides you with a maximum power of 147 PS and a torque figure of 350NM. The XV also achieved 52.3mpg on the combined cycle which is quite impressive. Maximum speed comes in at about 123mph and a 0-62mph of 9.3s. This is an engine that provides more than enough power on the road, whilst its statement Boxer horizontally-opposed pistons provide a smoothness that are exceptional for a diesel engine.

On the road

One of the benefits of the Boxer engine configuration is that it helps to lower the centre of gravity compared to the opposition as the engine block's flatter profile allows it to sit lower in the chassis, with an end result that the XV is very stable and balanced and noticeably resistant to side-to-side motion whilst driving. The Subaru is a willing companion in the bends and yet is comfortable when travelling further afield; the suspension also does a great job of isolating you from the worst that our roads can offer.

Design and tech

The Subaru XV offers plenty of standard equipment including Auto HID headlamps with auto leveller, 17-inch aluminium alloy wheels, leather-wrapped steering wheel and gearshift knob, front seat heaters, dual-zone automatic air-conditioning system, automatic rain-sensing windshield wipers, rear vision camera system and symmetrical all wheel drive. And spending a little more on the 2.0i SE or 2.0D SE (6MT/Lineartronic) gives you access to power-sliding, tilt-adjustable glass sunroof, leather seats, 8-way power adjustable driver's seat, keyless access and push button start system (touch-sensor type) and Subaru Starlink infotainment system. On the inside there is plenty of room for five adults to travel in comfort whilst the boot is capable of swallowing up to 1,270 litres of luggage and 60/40 folding seats mean it's very practical for a large family.

To sum up

The Subaru XV 2.0D SE Manual is an impressive performer amongst the growing SUV competition and deserves to do well, but more needs to be done on the styling inside the cabin.
Saying that, Subaru's extensive all wheel drive experience is impressive and it's off-road potential and on-road manners are something that stands out. If you're in the market for a mid-sized crossover, it's definitely worth a look. Priced from £24,440.

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NEW Maxell DVD+ RW discs 18 spools 25 discs each spool £5 each. Tel. 01865 751074

NEW, six pairs of trousers, waist 36" iinside leg 31", £40. Tel. 01865 751074

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QUALITY Samsung TV unit as new, black with two glass shelves for hi fi etc. £30. Can deliver. Oxford 07983 853 596

STORAGE heater, cream, 700mm H 335mm wide, 160mm deep, £30ono. Tel. 01235 534623

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Announcements

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Announcements

A tribute to Mrs Kathleen Smith

Forever the strikingly vibrant woman, through her unique fashion and catching bright smile. Dazzling each and everyone who encountered her with enough laughter and happiness to last a lifetime.

Endlessly adrift without our precious Kathy. Your devoted husband Peter, your 8 sons and loving daughter-in-laws, along with 14 grandchildren.

Funeral to commence on Monday 16th January, 12 noon, at St Mary's Church, Bloxham. Dress code to be everything smart, bright and colourful.

No infants please

Flowers to J&M Humphris, Banbury or donations to Metastatic Breast Cancer Research

Guardian Recruitment

To place a recruitment advert contact **Tara** on **01235 516917** or **tara@taylornewspapers.co.uk**

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CO-OPERATIVE AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETIES ACT 2014
Notice of Cancellation pursuant to section 5 of the Act

Notice is hereby given that the Authority has pursuant to the above mentioned section this day cancelled the registration of Abingdon Hydro Limited (Register No. 31792R) the registered office of which is at 2 Benson Road Abingdon Oxon OX14 1LN at its request.

The society ceases to enjoy the privileges of a registered society, but without prejudice to any liability incurred by the society, which may be enforced against it as if such cancellation had not taken place.

Date: 21 December 2016

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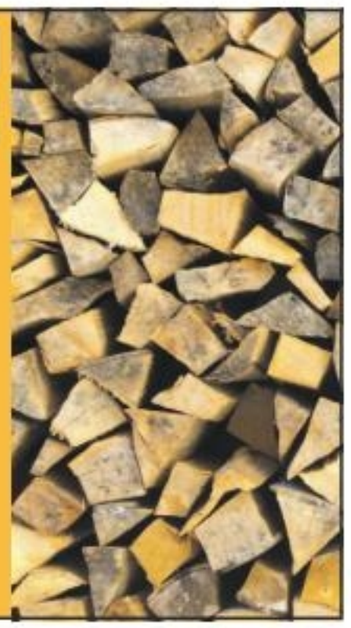

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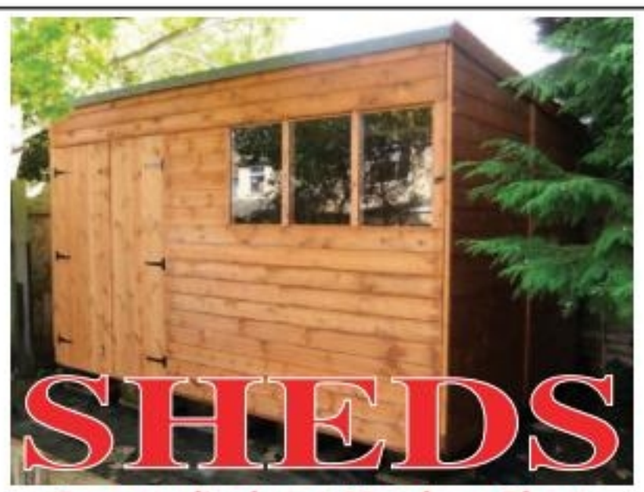

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Manor future is in doubt after team put into administration

By Adam Flinn

• *Esteban Ocon racing for Manor last year (Picture courtesy of Manor F1)*

BANBURY-BASED Formula One team Manor Racing has gone into administration, it was announced last Friday.

FRP Advisory has been appointed as administrators for the operating company of the team, Just Racing Services Limited (JRSL).

It puts the future of the team, its 212 staff and its participation in the 2017 Formula One World Championship into doubt unless funding can be found.

No redundancies have been made so far and all staff have been paid in full to the end of December.

Geoff Rowley, joint administrator and partner at FRP Advisory, said: "During recent months, the senior management team has worked tirelessly to bring new investment to the team to secure its long-term future, but regrettably has been unable to do so within the time available.

"Therefore, they have been left with no alternative but to place JRSL into administration.

"The 2017 season commences on March 26 in Melbourne, Australia, and the team's participation will depend on the outcome of the administration process and any related negotiations with interested parties in what is a very limited window of opportunity.

"We remain highly focused on engaging with interested parties."

The team previously went into administration in November 2014 when it was the Marussia team, before new owner Steven Fitzpatrick took over in February 2015.

In 2016, the team finished 11th and last in the constructors' championship with one point, having been overtaken by Sauber in the standings at the penultimate race in Brazil.

Losing out on 10th place is believed to have cost Manor around £10m in prize money.

Mr Fitzpatrick said: "[Friday's] decision to put the team into administration represents a disappointing end to a two-year journey for Manor.

"Over much of the last year we have been in discussions with several investor groups, and had finally agreed terms of a sale to an Asian investment consortium in December.

"Unfortunately time ran out before they could complete the transaction, and not wishing to repeat events of the past, we resolved in 2015 not to start any season that we did not know for certain we could complete, so we have taken the difficult decision to put the team's operating company into administration.

"When I took over the team in 2015 the challenge was clear – it was imperative that the team finish in 10th place or better for 2016.

"For much of the season we were on track, but the dramatic race in Brazil ended our hopes of this result and ultimately brought into doubt the team's ability to race in 2017.

"I would like to thank the team for their constant hard work, determination and passion. We made a huge amount of progress on and off track but ultimately it was not enough."

Shock as Hedman is beaten in first round

OXFORDSHIRE county darts player Deta Hedman crashed out in the first round of the BDO World Championships on Tuesday, despite having six match darts to win.

She was beaten 2-1 in sets by Casey Gallagher, who progressed past the first round for the first time.

Things had started well for number one seed Hedman in a close first set, as she hit a 114 checkout to take a 2-1 lead.

After Gallagher levelled, Hedman was throwing for the first set in the deciding leg, and she was able to check out on 88 with Gallagher waiting on a double to take an early advantage.

Hedman then raced into a two-leg lead in the second set, and looked odds on to close out the match.

Gallagher pulled one leg back but Hedman was then throwing for the match, and started off the fourth leg with two 140s.

But despite quickly getting down to a finish, Hedman then missed double 11, double four, double two and three double ones before Gallagher was able to level the set.

A phenomenal 117 checkout from Gallagher under pressure in the fifth leg to win the set then followed.

From there, Hedman looked visibly nervous on stage, and Gallagher was able to win three legs in succession in the deciding set to win the match.

It is only the second time that Hedman, runner up in three of the last six world championships, has been knocked out in the first round.

On Twitter, Hedman wrote: "Well it's been a long wait for Casey and I really hope we put on a great show for ladies darts."

Stars end six-game losing run

OXFORD City Stars put an end to their losing run extending back six matches to November by drawing at basement club Bracknell Hornets 3-3 on Saturday.

The draw against Bracknell, who have only won twice this season, put an end to Oxford's rotten run, but Simon Anderson's men last tasted victory on November 19 in a 3-1 win at Milton Keynes Thunder.

The Stars returned to action after a three-week gap over the festive period and it looked as if they would have to wait a little longer for that illusive win when the Hornets buzzed their way into a 2-0 lead at the end of the first period.

Danny Hughes opened the scoring for the hosts when he tipped in from the centre of the netminding crease before Ryan Handisides tucked in a loose puck to double the strugglers' lead.

But the Stars fought back in the second to turn the game on its head to lead 3-2.

• *Oxford City Stars celebrate (Picture courtesy of @oxfordcitystars)*

Darren Elliot began the fight back with Oxford's first on 30 minutes before defenceman Dominic Hopkins levelled the tie when he tipped home a Brendan Baird effort two minutes from time.

And, just a minute later, forward Mike Whillock fired home to give the Stars a one-goal lead at the end of the second period. But Oxford squandered their lead with 10 minutes to go when Sam Cheema equalised with a wrist shot for the Hornets when the Stars failed to clear their lines.

City travel to Streatham on Saturday before hosting Solent Devils on Sunday in the NIHL South Division 1.

Club legend passes away

By George Welch

OXFORD United's record goalscorer Graham Atkinson has died at the age of 73 after losing his battle with cancer.

The forward, who scored 107 goals in a 15-year period in the 1960s and 70s, passed way on Thursday last week.

The club said it was "deeply saddened" by the loss of "one of their all time greatest players".

Graham, like his fellow club-legend brother Ron Atkinson, started out at Aston Villa as a youngster but joined Ron at the old Manor Ground during the 1959/60 season before he turned 17.

A skilful and hard-working inside forward, Atkinson scored the club's first goal in the Football League at Barrow at the start of the 1962/63 season.

He would go on to make 394 appearances for the club, setting the all-time scoring record for the U's with 107 goals, one of which was United's first goal against local rivals Swindon Town in 1968.

His 77 Football League goals remains a club record, while only five players have made more appearances for the Yellows.

Brother Ron holds the record for the most U's appearances with 561 starts.

Ken Skeen, who played alongside Graham for many years, told the club's website: "He was a great man and a great footballer who I was proud to call my best mate, even after all these years."

He added: "I am glad I came to Oxford and got the chance to know him.

"He was a true gentleman who was at the heart of Oxford United for many years and he will be missed by everyone."

The club added: "The thoughts of everyone at the club are with Graham's family at this sad time."

A minute's silence will be held in his honour at a forthcoming game.

• Graham Atkinson scored 107 goals for Oxford United in all competitions (Picture courtesy of Oxford United FC)

• Nathaniel Lewars makes it 2-0 to Ardley United in the 3-0 win

Six wins in a row for Ardley

UHLSPORT Hellenic Premier Division side Ardley United continued their impressive form by winning their sixth league game on the bounce and keeping their fourth successive clean sheet.

United put on an impressive second-half performance to win 3-0 at Binfield on Saturday.

A Nathaniel Lewars brace and Leam Howard's strike without reply means Ardley last tasted defeat on November 22 at table-topping Flackwell Heath.

And the resilient United defence last conceded in a 9-2 thumping win at Henley Town at the start of December.

By half-time against Binfield, the game had barely threatened a goal to entertain the crowd, but Ardley's attack woke up to devastating affect in the second half.

Once Howard scored his 15th goal in 21 games just after the hour mark, he then turned provider and had a hand in both goals for Lewars, who opened his account for Ardley with a double.

Nick Bennion made two crucial saves for Ardley in the second half to deny the hosts, spurring Paul Davis' men to victory.

Davis praised his side for "another professional away performance".

He added: "I couldn't be happier for the lads tonight, to win six league games in a row in this league is extremely difficult, and we've started our run of really difficult games with a superb win."

Sixth-placed Ardley host fifth-placed Highworth Town on Saturday.

Banbury strike late again to extend their unbeaten run

HIGH-FLYING Banbury United extended their unbeaten run in the Southern League Premier Division to six matches with a late 1-0 winner at Dorchester Town on Saturday.

The Mark Bell penalty five minutes from time helped the Puritans to their fifth win in six matches.

It was the second time in as many weeks the winger has scored late on to secure three points for the north Oxfordshire side, following his strike against Leamington on January 2.

Banbury were dominant against Dorchester but it looked as though they would have to make do with a point.

But the visitors never gave up hope and, with five minutes to go, a cross from the left by Marvin Martin was handled by Magpie forward Neil Martin at the near post and the referee had no hesitation in pointing to the penalty spot.

The confident Bell stepped up and fired the ball home to the goalkeeper's left into the top corner of the net to secure the win.

Mike Ford's side have now kept five consecutive clean sheets as their promotion push continues.

United travelled to Thame last night to play Division One side Aylesbury United for a place in the quarter-finals of the Southern League Cup. Banbury return to league action on Saturday when they travel to 17th placed Kings Langley.

Wantage gain first point under Sadler

WANTAGE Town picked up their first point under new boss Ben Sadler and moved off the bottom of the Southern Division 1 South & West table with a 1-1 draw at Yate Town on Saturday.

Former assistant manager Sadler took charge after previous boss Stuart Cattell resigned in the wake of a narrow 1-0 defeat to league leaders Hereford on December 10 and then joined Didcot Town as a player.

The Freds were thumped 9-0 at home to Taunton Town before Sadler led his team out for the first time, in a 3-1 loss at Cattell's new team.

A 5-0 thumping at home to Swindon Supermarine ensued, but Wantage, who only have one win all season, picked up their first point of 2017 with a draw at Yate.

Todd Hathaway fired the Alfredians into an eighth-minute lead after Mark Francis capitalised on a wayward pass, but Kye Mountford equalised for the hosts before half-time.

Yate had defender Mayson Evans sent off for two bookable offences, but the Freds failed to force a winner. The point put an end to Wantage's four match-losing streak.

And Sadler, who has signed several players since his arrival, seemed in positive mood after the match.

He tweeted after the match: "Great effort from everyone today. We won't play any better without winning."

Town host play-off chasing Salisbury, who have won seven of their last eight matches in all competitions, on Saturday.

Three-time Olympic rower targets another gold medal at Tokyo games

• Pete Reed (Picture courtesy of @PeteReed)

A THREE-TIME Olympic champion from Henley's Leander Club has announced his rowing comeback as he targets a fourth Olympic gold medal in Tokyo.

Pete Reed won a gold medal in the men's eight for TeamGB at last year's Rio Olympics to compliment his coxless fours gold medals from the London 2012 and Beijing 2008 games.

The 35-year-old American-born rower returned to his job in the Royal Navy following last summer's Games.

He announced on Thursday last week that he is going to continue rowing – and a gold at Tokyo 2020 would make him one of the most decorated British rowers of all time.

Reed, who will be 39 at the Tokyo 2020 Games, said: "I'm really proud to be back and love nothing more than representing my country.

"Rowing is my love and passion - training is still a delight.

"I want to see what I can do whilst I am still young enough to give it a realistic shot.

"Thank you to the Royal Navy for your unwavering support. I will honour the service with every breath."

Should the former Oxford Blue secure a fourth Olympic gold, he would join the list of greats such as Sir Ben Ainslie, Sir Mo Farah and Sir Matthew Pinsent.

Reed, who is from Nailsworth and trains in Caversham, added: "I'm not going for a fourth gold medal in Tokyo 2020. I'm going for a gold medal in Tokyo 2020."

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First taste of defeat for Jones at City

By George Welch

OXFORD City's winning run under caretaker boss Mark Jones came to an end in a 3-2 defeat at Truro City on Saturday.

The Hoops had won all three matches under the stewardship of Jones, who was previous boss Justin Merritt's assistant manager, but his side were 2-0 down in 15 minutes.

City, who have lost Robbie Cundy and James Roberts after the youngsters returned to Oxford United following the end of their loan spells, struggled early on as Ryan Brett and Andrew Neal fired the hosts into an early lead.

Facing an uphill battle, City had limited chances in the first period and found home goalkeeper Martin Rice equal to the challenge.

And things were to get worse for Oxford when Truro extended their lead further shortly after the restart.

Persistence on the by-line and a precise pull-back from Neal found forward Dan Smith to convert from near the penalty spot to make it 3-0.

City rallied and fought back on the hour through an impactful triple substitution.

The subs produced a rapid response when Shaun McAuley scored his first goal for the club as he tucked away fellow substitute Mike Fondop's cross from close range.

And with the clock ticking down, Fondop headed home third substitute Matt Peake-Pijnen's cross to reduce the arrears to 3-2.

But it was too little too late for the Hoops, leaving Jones a frustrated man.

He blamed a "very, very poor start" for his first defeat.

He added: "We dominated possession but I don't think we really did enough with it.

"The performance was littered with mistakes throughout the 90 minutes which was very frustrating and we quite often made unforced errors. I expected better.

"Overall we made too many mistakes, too many unforced errors and we had too many players who didn't really play to the levels they are capable of. That made it very, very difficult for us. It's disappointing."

The defeat sees City drop one place to 14th, but favourable results elsewhere in the league mean that the Hoops are still eight points clear of the drop zone.

City find themselves on the road again next weekend, with a trip to Canvey Island for a National League South fixture against Concord Rangers.

• Striker Mike Fondop bearing down on goal for Oxford City earlier this season (Picture by Michael Allen)

Injury time strike saves a point

By George Welch

A DRAMATIC injury time Sam Elkins strike earned Didcot Town a point against second placed Tiverton on Saturday.

Elkins' goal late on ensured the hosts went away with a point in a game in which they led 2-0 within four first half minutes, only to be pegged back before half-time.

Diddy's first goal came from the penalty spot on 27 minutes after a Tiverton defender handled a cross.

The Railwaymen's top scorer Ben Whitehead stepped up and sent Tivvy keeper Joe Perry the wrong way to give Andy Ballard's side the lead.

And Whitehead scored again from the spot just four minutes later to double Town's advantage.

The striker stepped up and, although Perry got closer to Whitehead's second penalty attempt, he couldn't stop him from extending the lead and his 20th goal of the season.

Tiverton halved the deficit as half time approached through Tom Bath at the striker's second attempt.

Just four minutes later the visitors were back on level terms when a Jamie Price free kick bamboozled Didcot keeper Leigh Bedwell, with the defender's shot looping over the goalkeeper and into the back of the net.

• Didcot's Whitehead with the ball (Picture by Roger Neal)

Both sides pressed for a winner in the second half and with just six minutes remaining, it looked like Tiverton were making the long trip back to Devon with three points as Bath fired home his second of the game.

But Diddy refused to accept defeat and were rewarded when Elkins fired home in the 91st minute to rescue a point.

The draw continued Didcot's unbeaten run to four games and look to extend that as they travel to Wimborne on Saturday afternoon.

Kiddy hit for six as poor form goes on

KIDLINGTON conceded six goals for the second time in three games in a run that has seen them leak 18.

The latest thrashing for the Southern Division 1 Central outfit came in a 6-1 defeat at the hands of Fleet Town.

The Blues started emphatically as Josh Francis and Ben White put the hosts 2-0 up inside 12 minutes, despite Kidlington starting brightly.

The visitors started the second half on the front foot and forced Fleet goalkeeper Ryan Pryce into two good saves in the opening couple of minutes.

Kiddy had their best spell of the game early in the second half and managed to get back into the contest just after the hour mark.

Lewis Coyle replied for the Greens on 64 minutes, but White, Zak Hawker, Danilo Cadet and Pat Cox rounded off the 6-1 rout for Fleet.

Fleet have lost just once in their last nine league matches and are up to 15th, while Kiddy sit in 18th and have lost their last three.

The slump began on Boxing Day with a 6-0 hammering at Beaconsfield SYCOB before they shipped four goals at home to Aylesbury United on January 2 in a 4-3 loss.

And the latest defensive nightmare in Fleet takes the Greens' goals against tally up to 57 goals in 25 games, meaning they have the third leakiest defence in the league.

Kidlington were in action at home to league-leaders Royston Town last night as the Guardian went to press.

And manager Julian McCalmon will welcome another play off chasing team in Potters Bar Town to Yarnton Road on Saturday afternoon.

Millers back in play-off contention

NORTH Leigh reignited their Southern League Division South & West play off charge with back-to-back victories this week.

Leigh came from behind to win 2-1 at in-form Salisbury on Saturday, before squeezing past bottom club Bridgwater Town 1-0 on Tuesday.

Roger James scored the winner in the second half with a quality finish at Eynsham Park to beat struggling Bridgwater, who are seven points from safety and have only won twice all season.

And on Saturday, the Millers, who have been in patchy form of late, came from behind to cause a small upset to beat Salisbury, who had won their previous seven matches in all competitions and are now in sixth place.

The visitors fell behind on six minutes when Justin Bennett emphatically fired past Leigh goalkeeper Manny Agboola.

But a brace from top scorer George Seacole won the points for the Millers.

Salisbury have since received an apology from referee Stephen Graham after he missed what he described as "a blatant foul" on Justin Bennett in the run-up to Seacole's equaliser on 71 minutes.

John Brough's side will hope to keep their winning run going when they host 16th placed Yate Town on Saturday.

But the fixtures come thick and fast for the west Oxfordshire side who will play two games a week for the next three weeks.

They sit three places and nine points off the play-offs, but have games in hand on most of the teams above them.

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Home tie ahead as U's move to fourth round

• Oxford United players celebrate (Picture courtesy of @OUFCOfficial)

By George Welch

OXFORD United will face a SkyBet Championship side for the second round running after they were handed a home tie against either Newcastle United or Birmingham City in the Emirates FA Cup 4th round.

The draw was made on Monday and sees the U's take on the winners of next Wednesday's replay, after the two sides drew 1-1 at St Andrews at the weekend.

United secured their passage into the 4th round for the second season running after they squeezed past Championship side Rotherham United 3-2 away from home on Saturday.

Oxford, who are a league below but only 12 places below the south Yorkshire club, were well on their way to a 'mini upset' thanks to a first half strike from Rotherham lad Ryan Taylor.

The striker, who signed as a trainee at his boyhood club in 2005 and went on to make over 130 appearances and score 23 goals, connected with a Ryan Hall cross to slide the ball beyond Lewis Price and into the back of the net four minutes before half-time.

There was not a hint of celebration from the 28-year-old, who spent six years at the Millers' old Don Valley Stadium between 2005 and 2011.

Taylor's opener gave the visitors the lead when they should have already been ahead when another former Miller – the prolific Chris Maguire – missed from the spot for the first time in an Oxford shirt.

But the Championship side were back on level terms shortly after the restart when United failed to clear their lines and striker Danny Ward, who got the wrong side of Curtis Nelson, powered beyond Simon Eastwood.

Rotherham dominated much of the second half but two Oxford goals in the last 10 minutes gave the hosts too much to do.

First, on loan right back Phil Edwards ghosted in unnoticed from a corner to head the U's into a 2-1 lead and to send the United fans into delirium.

Then, two minutes from time, a wicked left wing cross from Marvin Johnson found Kane Hemmings to bundle the ball home, again unmarked, to double Oxford's advantage.

Tom Adeyemi's late header for Rotherham set up a tense finale but proved just a consolation for the Millers, who have now lost 16 of their last 19 games and sit bottom of the Championship, 12 points from safety.

The FA Cup 4th round tie will be played over the weekend of January 28, meaning United's League One match at home to league-leaders Sheffield United will be postponed.

Newcastle, managed by Champions League winner Rafa Benitez, are second in the Championship, while Birmingham, managed by Chelsea legend Gianfranco Zola, are 13th in the same division.

Michael Appleton's side lost 3-0 at home to another Championship outfit – Blackburn Rovers – at the 4th round stage last year.

Wembley in sight once again for United

KANE Hemmings was the hat-trick hero as Oxford United moved one step closer to a return to Wembley in a 4-1 win against Scunthorpe United in the Checkatrade Trophy.

Tuesday's contest at the Kassam Stadium with the SkyBet League One promotion hopefuls saw United fall behind to an 11th minute Luke Williams penalty, but Hemmings' first hat-trick for the club fired United into the last eight.

Michael Appleton's side, who reached the final of last season's competition – then known as the Johnstone's Paint Trophy – responded eight minutes after the early set back.

A marvellous Marvin Johnson goal levelled the tie with a trademark goal by flying down the left wing at great pace before firing across goal and inside the far post, giving keeper Joe Anyon no chance to save.

And four minutes later, Hemmings bagged his first of the evening to give the hosts the lead with a cool finish from a low Joe Rothwell cross.

Enthusiasm for the Checkatrade Trophy remained uninspiring as both sides made several changes from the weekend and the match was played out in front of less than 1,400 fans.

But the home supporters were celebrating shortly after the restart when Hemmings doubled United's lead from the spot after Rob Hall, a constant nuisance on the wing, was felled by Levi Sutton.

Hemmings completed his hat-trick in injury time when he drifted past his marker to force home a Chris Maguire cross to move United within two games of Wembley.

As the Checkatrade Trophy heads into the last eight, only one development side from the Premier League and the Championship – Swansea City – remain in the competition.

The draw for the quarterfinal takes place today.

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